

TROUBLESHOOTING COMMUNICATION RECEIVER

Radio Electronics

THE MAGAZINE FOR NEW IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

\$1.55 FEB. 1979

SOLAR TRACKING SYSTEM

A guide to building a system that controls solar energy panels so they track the sun.

WIRE WRAP JUNGLE

New construction technique combines PC and wire-wrap assembly to get the best of both worlds.

AUDIO TEST STATION

Construction details for a high-quality audio test instrument that combines several important test instruments into a single cabinet.

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A roundup of commercially available off-the-shelf enclosures that add a professional look to your projects.

PLUS:

- ★ Two Hi-Fi Test Reports From R-E's Audio Lab
- ★ New IHF Amplifier Standards
- ★ Jack Darr's Service Clinic
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- ★ Computer Corner
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RETAILER: SEE PAGE 97 FOR
SPECIAL DISPLAY ALLOWANCE PLAN

02

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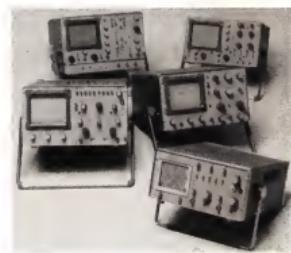
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OS260

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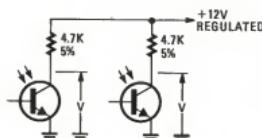
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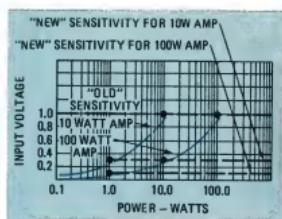
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ON THE COVER

It looks like an electronic organ, but it isn't. It is a string synthesizer. Plunk the keys and play a banjo, or guitar, or piano, or . . . Build one for yourself. Construction details start on page 37.



PHOTOTRANSISTOR SENSORS for the heart of this solar tracking device that follows the sun. Use it with your solar energy collection system. Complete details start on page 42.



NEW IHF SENSITIVITY RATING specifies the input voltage required to produce a 1-watt output. Story starts on page 56.

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looking ahead

Videodisc mergers? Although many different noncompatible videodiscs have been demonstrated, as outlined previously ("Looking Ahead," *Videodisc Boxscore*, November, 1978), the multiplicity of these systems may evaporate or dwindle as manufacturers face reality. The optical system, which basically was a compromise between similar Philips and MCA systems, is already being produced by Magnavox (videodisc players) and MCA Disco-Vision (videodisc records) in the United States. In Japan, the joint Japanese-American company, Universal Pioneer, plans to start player production this year.

So the optical system is the one manufacturers wish to stop, if they want to field simpler nonlaser players. Nonlaser systems have been demonstrated by RCA, Matsushita, JVC, Toshiba and Telefunken—the latter now being on limited sale in both Europe and Japan in a 10-minute-per-disc version. The RCA and JVC versions are capacitance systems. Matsushita and Telefunken are classified as mechanical systems. Except for RCA and Toshiba, which are compatible, the systems have little in common except that they're nonoptical. They all use grooved discs (except for JVC) and spin at 450, 900, or 1800 rpm. Even the center-hole diameters are different.

Although it's not official yet, there's strong evidence to suggest an effort will be made to bring all these systems into compatibility before commercializing them. The resulting system—if there is one—is expected to have some features of the optical version, such as being able to provide slow and fast motion but to be potentially less expensive in terms of players and perhaps discs. The result could be a sort of "stop-Philips" effort; in effect, optical vs. nonoptical systems. Although this situation isn't ideal, two "standards" are preferable to five or six.

New watch display: Electrochromic displays are claimed to be price-competitive with LCD's, but have some major advantages. The first company to announce the commercialization of this technique is Sharp, which says it will have a line of ECD's this spring.

Several companies have been working on ECD's for four or five years. These displays use metallic chemicals that change to a dark color when a voltage is applied. Once changed, they retain their color until the voltage is reversed—a power-saving feature. They have considerably higher visibility than LCD's, primarily because their image is nondirectional. They can be manufactured in any color, and the numerals stand out clearly against a contrasting background. The color of Sharp's initial displays will be blue. Electrochromic displays are relatively slow and, in their initial development, at least, it was felt they were not fast enough for calculators. Sharp hasn't stated whether its product will have a calculator display.

TV developments: A new single-gun color tube, scheduled to be sold this year in small-screen battery-powered sets manufactured by Matsushita, is claimed to have an extremely low power drain, making it

possible for a set to operate for three hours on nine flashlight batteries. Its color phosphors are separated by black control stripes that emit ultra-violet rays for beam indexing. If this sounds familiar to some color TV oldtimers, it bears a striking similarity to Philco's widely demonstrated (but never produced) "Apple" tube of the 1950's.

Photochromic glass has been used in windows and sunglasses, and now it may be adapted to black-and-white TV. The Corning Glass product darkens under strong light and lightens when ambient light is less intense. For outdoor viewing of a portable TV, the glass darkens enough to eliminate the need for a separate plastic sunshield. For indoor viewing, the glass lightens—providing proper contrast under all viewing conditions. Corning is now working on the development of a glass that darkens enough to provide these contrast-enhancing features.

"Picture-in-picture" TV is offered in Europe as a special feature that lets the viewer watch two channels simultaneously, the supplementary channel being superimposed in a corner or at the bottom of the large-screen color picture. The only trouble is, the secondary picture is in black-and-white. Now, Hitachi says it has changed all that and will be selling a two-picture color set in which *both* the main and the superimposed pictures are in color. A digital semiconductor memory makes it possible to provide the second-channel insert in color.

In-flight video: Video tape is about to take over for film in the airborne movie business. Bell & Howell has sold American, Continental and Laker Airlines on a new technique that uses a modified VHS $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch videocassette recorder and a projection TV system. Among the advantages of a VHS system is the size of the cassette, as contrasted with the large 16-mm movie reel used in film systems. And with film systems, the reels generally are changed by engineers on the ground. Flight attendants can easily flip a cassette in the VCR, which is mounted in a luggage rack. The projector uses three side-by-side 5-inch monochrome projection tubes, weighs 65 lbs. and is installed in the cabin ceiling. The picture is projected onto a standard 30- by 40-inch pull-down screen. Bell & Howell says it plans to introduce a home version of the projector this year for built-in and conventional installations. Its advantages over other home systems, as claimed by the manufacturer, are: It's bright enough to be able to use any flat movie screen, or even a light-colored wall, instead of a parabolic directional screen.

Another new Bell & Howell "why-didn't-they-think-of-it-before" system for the airlines is a wireless headphone for stereo music or movie sound. For the high-ceilinged new planes, Bell & Howell will also supply wireless attendant-call and light-switch systems.

DAVID LACHENBRUCH
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

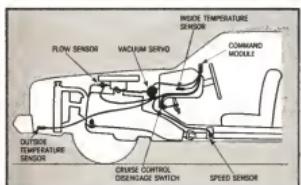
Automotive "brain" astounds the experts, puts both computer and cruise control at your fingertips!

For the first time ever, you can put a true computer in your car, truck or RV which gives you the most effective and functional cruise control ever designed, plus complete trip computing, fuel management system, and a remarkably accurate quartz crystal time system. It is called CompuCruise™.

So simple a child can operate, the new CompuCruise combines latest computer technology with state-of-the-art reliability in a package which will not likely be available on new cars for years to come.

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tion relating to time, distance, fuel and performance of his vehicle.

There are a number of digital-type instruments on the market which can be purchased for your car, purporting to provide functional data on performance, but all are basically calculators, operating on fixed information provided by the driver.

CompuCruise is a true computer, operating from automatic data sensors which constantly react to changing conditions, automatically recomputing vital data every second. Each function operates independently, with data displayed and updated constantly until you change your request of the computer.

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- ✓ Cruise Control
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- ✓ Time, Distance, Fuel to Arrival
- ✓ Time, Distance, Fuel to Empty
- ✓ Time, Distance and Fuel on Trip
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- ✓ Current and Average Vehicle Speed
- ✓ Inside, Outside or Coolant Temperature
- ✓ Battery Voltage
- ✓ English or Metric Display

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ANIK-B COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE



ANIK-B, a domestic communications satellite, has been constructed by RCA Astro-Electronics for Telesat Canada. It is the first such satellite to operate in the dual frequency bands of 6- and 4-GHz and 14- and 12-GHz. A Telesat engineer is shown here performing antenna pattern measurements. The mirrors are part of the thermal system that keeps the spacecraft at cool operating temperatures.

Bell Labs scientists win 1978 Nobel Physics Prize

Bell Labs scientists Dr. Arno A. Penzias and Dr. Robert W. Wilson received the 1978 Nobel Prize in Physics jointly with Professor Piotr Kapitsa of the Moscow Academy of Sciences (Prof. Kapitsa received his award for his work in low-temperature physics).

Drs. Penzias and Wilson won their shared prize for their work in cosmic microwave background radiation. As early as 1964, when they were using a Bell Labs antenna to search for radio noise sources that were interfering with satellite communications, they discovered a faint pervasive radio signal that remained steady round the clock, season to season—an unusual

and unique phenomenon. After eliminating possible sources of the signal (such as the Milky Way, the sun, poorly fitted antenna joints, even nesting pigeons!), the conclusion became inescapable—the signal was the result of the radiation still remaining after the big bang that had created the universe approximately 2 billion years ago. Their conclusions were verified by Professor Robert H. Dicke of Princeton who had been conducting similar studies.

Although the "Big Bang" theory had been known to astro-physicists for a long time, up until Penzias and Wilson's discovery of the background radiation, the theory had never been satisfactorily verified. When the two physicists (along with Prof. Dicke and his co-workers independently) published their results, their discovery was finally understood to be a major breakthrough in understanding the origins of the universe.

Videocassette exchange service available

Owners of Beta and VHS $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch format VCR's can avail themselves of the services provided by the Video Cassette Exchange Division of Discotronics Inc., New Jersey, in which customers can either buy or exchange videocassettes at greatly reduced rates.

The 1979 catalog lists approximately 600 prerecorded film titles, some of which have never been seen on TV. The company also offers trade-in privileges that are similar to those of a rental library. And, for convenience, they also provide a nationwide home pickup service for a small charge. For more information, contact Robert Edwards, Discotronics Inc., 50 North Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512.

New communication service proposed by radio amateur group

In 1977 amateur radio operators of WA2RPC (Center for Advanced Study in Education, Graduate School of CUNY, New York City) filed a petition with W2KPKQ, requesting the implementation of a community service that would use the communica-casting concept to broadcast messages on UHF channels.

Communicating uses a low-power community-based repeater station that can transmit audio and video signals up to a 30-mile radius, using a high antenna. The repeater station receives signals from different areas of the community and then transmits them via any unused UHF TV channel. The petitioning group additionally requested that low-power facilities be exempt from the usual rigid broadcast standards in an effort to keep costs down.

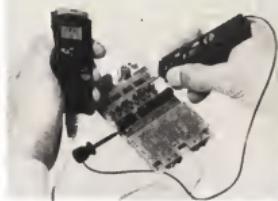
Praising the communica-casting concept, the FCC has stated that: "The petition and comments by others suggest an imagina-

tive and potentially beneficial public service television concept . . . an activity that deserves considerable attention in the overall inquiry."

Swiss watch firm designs microminiature DMM

Heuer Time & Electronics, Inc., watch and timepiece manufacturer, has taken the plunge into the world of microelectronic instrumentation by designing what it calls "the world's smallest digital multimeter," using the company's experience in micro-miniaturizing watches.

The model DM 2000 meter (displayed for the first time at Newcom '78, Las Vegas) weighs less than 3 oz., including probe and



MICROMINIATURE DIGITAL MULTIMETER provides multiple ranges, modern microminiaturization techniques, remote-control probe, LCD readout and high reliability. The instrument weighs less than 3 oz., including probes and batteries.

batteries, and (minus probe) measures only $4 \times 0.78 \times 0.47$ inches. In addition to its four measurement range capability—to 1000 DC, 700 VAC, AC/DC current to 2 amperes, and resistance to 20 megohms—two major technical features lie in its true AC RMS measurement and complete RF shielding. It also provides up to 100-hour battery life, an error-free LCD display (due to its remote-control probe), plus great reliability for field-service applications where accuracy and portability can be vital.

The model DM 2000 is expected to sell for \$450. For further information, write Hans J. Kueffel, Heuer Time & Electronics, 960 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081.

Newsflash!

As we're about to go to press, we've received word that Texas Instruments has received type-approval from the FCC on a computer that connects to the antenna terminals of a TV receiver. Could it be that Texas Instruments will be entering the home computer market? Formal introduction of this new device is scheduled to take place at the Consumer Electronics Show,

continued on page 12

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Using this new technology, the industry is offering compact, affordable computers that will handle things like payrolls, billing, inventory, and other jobs for businesses of every size...perform household functions including budgeting, environmental systems control, indexing recipes, and more. And thousands of hobbyists are already owners, experimenting and developing their own programs.

Growing Demand for Computer Technicians

This is only one of the growth factors influencing the increasing opportunities for qualified computer technicians. The U.S. Department of Labor projects over a 100% increase in job openings for the decade through 1985. Most of them *new* jobs created by the expanding world of the computer.

Learn at Home in Your Spare Time

NRI can train you for this exciting, rewarding field. Train you at home to service not only microcomputers, but their larger brothers, too. Train you at your convenience, with clearly written "bite-size" lessons that you do evenings or weekends, without going to classes or quitting your present job.

Assemble Your Own Microcomputer

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And that's what NRI training is all about.



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Since 1914, before commercial radio was even on the air, NRI has been the way to learn new electronics skills. Today's modern offerings include, in addition to three different computer courses, TV/Audio/Video Systems Servicing, with training on the only designed-for-learning 25" diagonal color TV, with state-of-the-art computer programming. Or check out our Complete Communications Course, preparing you to enter this booming field servicing, installing, and repairing equipment like microwave, broadcast, CB, shortwave radio, paging, radar, and more.

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Send today for your free copy of our 100-page, full-color catalog. It describes all of our electronics courses in detail, showing kits, equipment, and lesson plans. Look it over at your convenience, then decide how NRI can help you make the most of your talents. There's no obligation and no salesman will ever call or bother you. With more than a million students and unmatched experience in home training, NRI gives you the most in training for new opportunity! If card has been removed, write to:



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new & timely

continued from page 6

which will be held in Las Vegas on January 6-9.

We have also learned that Atari is preparing to introduce a BASIC interpreter for their programmable video game. This will also be introduced at CES.

Admiral TV production is discontinued

Rockwell International Corporation recently announced that it would discontinue all its Admiral TV products. Admiral marketing activities are currently being phased out, and, once current commitments are fulfilled, all production will cease at the Harvard, IL, and Taiwan plants.

Charles Fazio, president of Rockwell's consumer operations, has emphasized that the company would continue to provide warranties, service and spare parts support; and added that the phasing out of its TV production would enable Rockwell to concentrate its efforts on its ongoing application business and other operations.

The reason given for discontinuing the Admiral TV line was "intense price competition, particularly from Japanese sources," which the company felt did not justify any additional outlay of its resources.

Two-layer solar cell provides 28% conversion to electricity

Varian Associates, Inc., of Palo Alto (under contract to the Department of Energy's Scandia Labs) has developed a prototype solar cell system that converts 28.5% of the sun's rays to electricity.

The Varian system uses two different cells—an aluminum gallium arsenide (AlGaAs) cell and a silicon cell—to perform the conversion. A special filter between the cells separates solar radiation into long and short wavelengths; it permits the longer rays to penetrate the silicon cell, while allowing the shorter rays to pass through into the AlGaAs cell. This effect is achieved by using a concave mirror to focus the solar energy onto the filter. The AlGaAs cell converts 17.4% of the rays to electricity, while the silicon cell converts 11.1% of the rays.

Sandia Labs supervisor Dr. Donald G. Schueler predicts that by 1986, photovoltaic systems "will produce electricity for \$1 per-peak-watt of installed capacity, or from 6¢ to 8¢ per kilowatt-hour."

Sprague and Johnson receive EIA awards

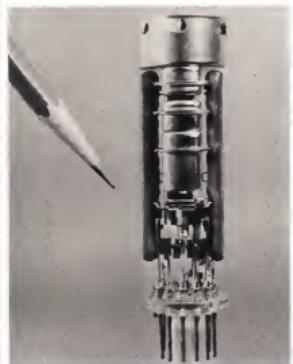
During its fall 1978 conference, the Electronic Industries Association voted to award the EIA Medal of Honor to Robert C. Sprague, Sr., for his devotion and long years of service to the Association and the electronic industry. Among Mr. Sprague's most recent accomplishments are his efforts to revise the Custom Penalty Laws to

remove unfair penalty provisions for the industry. Active for many years in EIA, he was a member of the Board of Governors since 1943 and board chairman from 1950-1954. This is the second time Mr. Sprague has won the EIA Medal of Honor, the first having been 25 years ago. The presentation will be made at EIA's spring 1979 meeting.

At the same conference, Raymond E. Johnson, EIA general counsel, received the EIA Distinguished Service Award, the first staff member to be so honored. Mr. Johnson has served as EIA general counsel since 1970 and was elected corporate secretary in 1972. He received his award for his years of distinguished service to EIA and his involvement in the Association on all levels.

RCA electron gun sharpens color TV pictures

RCA Laboratories and the technical staff of the RCA Picture Tube Division have developed a device that is used to create sharper color television pictures. This latest



IMPROVED ELECTRON GUN developed by RCA Picture Tube Division can be used in all sizes of color TV tubes to create sharper pictures.

development is a new kind of electron gun that "shoots" invisible beams at color phosphors on the picture tube face. The result is improved focus and, thus, sharper pictures. The gun, which is now in commercial production, can be used on any size picture tube.

The results of this joint effort were presented in a paper delivered at the annual Chicago Fall Conference on Consumer Electronics by Picture Tube Division engineers Richard H. Hughes and Jim Y. Chen.

Metal-tape standards surveyed at ITA meeting

Representatives of companies manufacturing record and playback equipment, audio tape, duplicating equipment and ferric oxide attended a late 1978 meeting of the Audio Technical Executive Committee of the International Tape Association (ITA), to discuss industry-wide standardization of metal audio cassette tape.

However, because record/playback and erase heads are still not standardized, the committee could not come to any firm decision about standards for metal tape. Several companies, however, stated their readiness to enter the metal-tape market.

Among these were 3M Company, which already introduced their metal-particle *Metalfine* tape, and Sharp Electronics with its prototype metal-tape recorder. Panasonic is presently developing metal-tape cassette decks and a duplicator for $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch VHS videocassettes. Fuji and 3M together are working on high-energy contact duplication of metal-particle videotape. BASF plans to introduce its metal-tape product at the 1979 Berlin Fair. Other companies continuing their R & D activities are Ampex, Maxell, Sony and TDK. Oxide supplier Hercules, Inc., said it would be producing metal-tape particles in quantity by 1979.

FCC asks, should TV sets be graded?

The Federal Communications Commission has started an inquiry to determine whether it should set up a system for grading TV receivers, since it feels that customers do not presently have enough information to help them select the best TV's and antennas for their needs. Here are some of the questions the FCC is asking:

1. If the consumer wants more information on TV systems, what kinds of data should be made available, how should it be presented and would it really improve one's ability to select a set? Should the equipment have a permanent label affixed? Should there be a brochure enclosed with each set? A letter-grading system, or a descriptive grade system (i.e., "excellent," "good," etc.)?

2. Some TV sets experience "snow" on the picture screen that is the result of noise. Should TV receivers show the maximum noise value for that set? How should this be presented to the public?

3. Should each purchased set contain more installation and operating instructions than are presently provided?

Deadline for filing comments with the FCC is February 1, 1979. The docket number is Gen. Doc. 78-307, and for a copy of the notice, write Consumer Assistance Office, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554.



The DM235 by Sinclair
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Full Performance, "Portable/Benchtop" Digital Multimeter!

Sinclair's new DM235. The best digital meter value in the world at \$89.95!

The Sinclair DM235 provides full facilities for every application, including field servicing, testing and laboratory work, at a price no other digital multimeter can approach.

High accuracy, resolution and input impedance are combined with a large, wide-angle LED display to provide quick, clear, unambiguous readings wherever you use it.

Automatic polarity selection, simple clear controls and the use of a single input terminal pair for all functions, provide for maximum convenience in operation.

The DM235 measures DC --- and AC --- volts, DC --- and AC --- current, and resistance in a total of 21 ranges (with an additional 5 diode test ranges), giving it the versatility to tackle any job.

The display is a full 3½ digits reading to ± 1999 . Large, high brightness 8mm LEDs give clear, unambiguous readings with an ultra wide angle of view. And an LED display means proven life-time reliability.

The Sinclair DM235 is fully portable and has complete independence of AC line via operation from four C size (R14) cells. Alternatively, where continuous operation on the bench is required, an optional AC adaptor/charger is available. To increase flexibility still further, a rechargeable battery pack and an ever-ready carrying case with neck strap are also available as options, as is a 30kV probe.

A sensible new concept in meter design for use on the bench or in the field!

Up till now, choosing a meter suitable for use on the bench *and* in the field hasn't been easy. Either you bought a bulky, bench instrument that was awkward to carry around, or a hand-held portable that was difficult to use on the bench. The Sinclair concept is different — by keeping the thickness down to only a fraction over 1½" (40mm) and the weight down to under 1½ lbs (650gms), we've produced an instrument that has all the advantages of conventional bench meters, but packs neatly into any tool kit or brief case.

- Fully protected • Accuracy is quoted as a percentage of reading • Resistance ranges provide a diode test facility at 5 decade steps of current • Automatic overrange indication by horizontal bars • Automatic decimal point placement • Facility for battery condition test
- Reading rate 2½ per second • Temperature coefficient $<0.05^\circ/\text{C}$ of applicable accuracy specification • Dimensions 10" \times 5.8" \times 1.6" (255 \times 148 \times 40mm) • Weight less than 1½ lbs (640gms)

Features you'd expect to pay \$200 or more for:

- Lightweight but extremely rugged cycloal case (stackable) • Large, bright, wide angle LED display reading to ± 1999 • Automatic polarity selection • Industry standard 10M Ω input impedance 0.5% of reading basic accuracy • Full multimeter facilities including AC --- current • Resistance measurement up to 20M Ω • Direct reading of semi-conductor forward voltages at 5 different currents • Simple, unambiguous controls with readings always in volts, mA or K Ω • Selection of all functions from a single input terminal pair
- Automatic decimal point placement • Automatic overrange indication • Operation from disposable or rechargeable cells, or from AC adaptor/charger • 1 year over-the-counter service policy • 3½ digit resolution

The Sinclair DM235 at \$89.95 has all the features you'll most likely ever need. There is no reason to pay more, whether your application is to outfit a team of engineers, or for the hobbyist. It is fully protected, amazingly rugged (drop it without damage), lightweight, stackable... the advantages go on and on. And with Sinclair's innovative "Portable Benchtop" design, the DM235 is truly the only meter you'll ever need whether you are in the shop, on the road, or at work in the field.

A background of experience

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letters

THE TERM "BAUD" EXPLAINED

The article entitled "Digital Data Transmission—How A Computer Communicates" (May 1978 issue) provides a highly readable introduction to the subject that many novice computer enthusiasts will find

00 01 10 11 10 10 01 00



enlightening. However, the author commits a "technical foul" in making the unqualified statement that the term "baud" is used interchangeably with the term "bits-per-second."

The term baud means the number of times-per-second the line condition changes. If the line condition represents

the presence or absence of a single bit (as in two-state signaling), then the signaling speed in bauds is the same as bits-per-second. If, however, the signaling is not two-state, then bauds are not equal to bits-per-second. The latter condition exists, for instance, in "di-bit" or four-state signaling (see diagram), in which the baud rate is equivalent to the number of bits-per-second times two.

This explanation is an adaptation from *Introduction to Teleprocessing* by James Martin, a reference I recommend for those interested in further exploring the subject of digital data transmission.

MARVINO A. HILL
Los Angeles, CA

THE FUTURE OF ELECTRONICS

This is in answer to your September 1978 editorial in which you invited readers to send in their look at the future of electronics. Your No. 4 idea is not at all far out. At the very least, should gravity prove to be

meta- or parophysical, control of the successful anti-gravity device will almost certainly be electronic in nature.

Electronics touches all fields of activity, even if remotely. Thus, all one has to do is just settle back and enter the light-trance state to foresee some very likely developments in coming decades. Whatever they may be, electronics will play a major part in their initiation, development, production, use and, yes, even in their eventual obsolescence. Here are my "predictions":

Transportation: In but half a century we have seen a transition from the horse to 500-passenger aircraft; the motor car has changed our life so drastically that should we run out of fuel our society as we know it would die like the dinosaurs; and the locomotive has been relegated to hauling freight. And still the insatiable appetite for travel expands.

One mode of transportation will revolutionize public, private and personal trans-

continued on page 23



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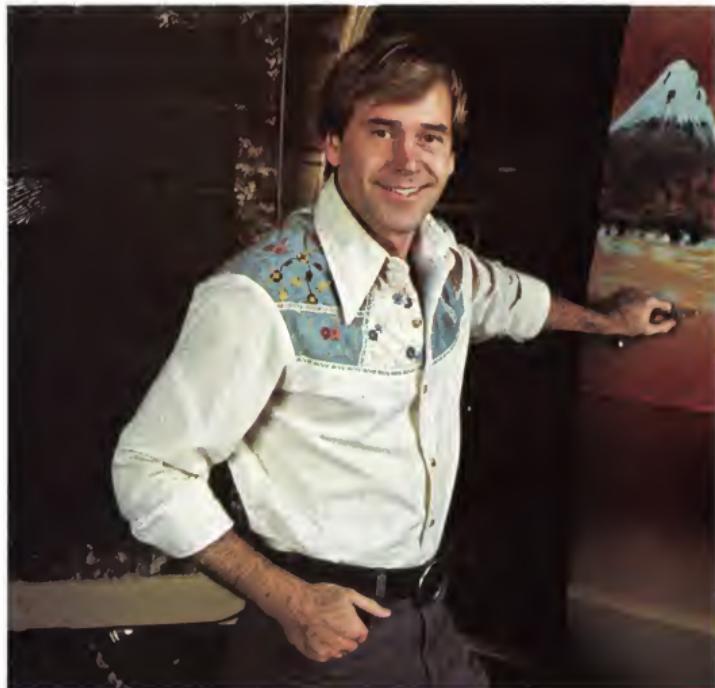
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That's what happens with CIE's Auto-Programmed® Lessons. Each lesson takes one or two principles and helps you master them—before you start using them!

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Pattern simulated.

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- The .125" diameter whip is tapered, so shock is distributed evenly. There's no spring to stretch, break, or bend the whip away from the straightest possible upright position.

Exclusive coil-in-cup design

Loading of most low-profile antennas is by a simple printed circuit board that can't be tuned and will eventually burn out. These new Persuader antennas are completely pre-assembled and pre-tuned and feature an actual hand-wound, hand-tinned copper wire loading coil tested with 500 watts, rated at 100 watts continuous. It's even more efficient than our base-loaded coils because it's wound to a larger diameter, with fewer turns.

This unique design also involves fewer mechanical and electrical connectors—fewer resistive contacts between loading coil and cable terminations—less chance for dust, moisture or road gunk to contaminate the contacts.

This concept has been field tested by thousands of CBers in our Model 13503 (shorter whip, plain white cup). Your good buddies will tell you everything we say about it is true.

Available with Trunk-Lip or Magnet Mount

for performance:

- SWR of 1.5:1 or less across all 40 AM and SSB channels.
- Shunt-fed loading coil is DC grounded for quiet performance; bleeds off static from rain, snow, air particles. Performance is virtually identical to body mount antennas.
- Center-of-placement of magnet mount provides your most uniformly omni-directional signal. (Can also mount on trunk lid).
- Unique Antenna Incorporated design provides capacitive coupling. Aluminum plate puts the ground potential right at the mounting surface.

for convenience: Magnet and trunk lip, the two easiest installations! Place the antenna where you want it, plug the cable into the transceiver. No holes to drill. readily removed for anti-theft protection. Magnet mount supplied with 12' RG-58/U coaxial cable with PL-259 type connector; trunk lip mount with 17' of cable.

for magnet mount adherence:

Heavy-duty 2½" magnet in plastic cup with soft rubber gasket. Holds at top highway speeds of 55 mph. (Trunk lip mount recommended for vinyl roof cars.) Since it won't walk, it won't detune! "Oil-can" effect of cup; resting on gasket, provides a larger magnet plane than if the magnet itself were touching the surface—yet there's less weight on the car, less scratch potential.

All magnet mount benefits
are standard...
not an extra-cost accessory!

LETTERS

continued from page 16

portation: The Transmitter! It is inconceivable that electronics will not play a major role in bringing the matter transceiver out of the sixth dimension and into the fifth, perhaps by the year 2000.

The workhorse locomotive will continue to be the major transport for heavy goods. Two excellent substitutes besides anti-grav for the rails: freight transmitters and automated factories that will manufacture any product (including foodstuffs) locally upon demand. An automated factory that might use hydrogen from water as its raw material would certainly use electronics in 100 interconnected ways.

Entertainment: Stage plays have given way to movies, and movies in turn have been taken over by TV. The same play that was artfully done for 1978 airwaves, can carry its message via satellite simultaneously to easily a hundred million, or even a couple of billion viewers.

The future patron of the arts must be so enraptured by sight, sound, smell, etc., that he becomes the protagonist. While we might anticipate that we'll tap into nerve endings surgically to heighten the total effect, it is more likely that a helmet fitted over your head will have the desired effect. Electronic? Of course.

Students of metaphysics declare that everyone who ever lived is recorded in the "Akashic" records "out there" in the sixth dimension. Assume that there is such a record, most certainly one day a workshop experimenter will discover the way to tap that great recording at will and select out one at a time of the billions of recordings that exist in that "other dimension," like tuning across AM, FM, SSB, CB, etc. frequency bands. Through the simple application of tuned resonance or PLL, we'll separate each (recording) to be received serially, and the roar of "pure noise" will change to recognizable intelligence.

To any who say that everything's been invented, I can only reply, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamed of in your philosophy!"

A READER
Geyserville, CA

HEAT ENGINE EFFICIENCY

Mr. Smiles' letter in the August 1978 issue merits congratulations for compactness, but I have never seen so much misinformation packed in so little space!

The limiting efficiency of heat engines (of which the internal combustion engine is one type and not the most efficient, at that) is determined by the second law of thermodynamics. According to this law, the limiting efficiency is determined by the equation:

$$E = \frac{T_h - T_c}{T_h}$$

where T_h represents the high-temperature side of the engine and T_c , the low-temperature side of the engine.

For an internal combustion engine, the high temperature can be taken as the combustion temperature, which is approximately 1700°C or 2000°K (Kelvin or absolute temperature); my conversion is not exact, but the value is only approximate.

The low temperature is the temperature at which the gas is exhausted from the cylinder, which can be taken as 500°K. Then, the theoretical limiting efficiency of such an engine is easily calculated as 75%, which is far greater than Mr. Smiles' value of 30%.

It is true, of course, that present-day internal combustion engines are far less efficient than the value calculated above. This is due to practical limitations on what type of engines can be constructed economically, a far cry from the theoretical limitation Mr. Smiles complains about.

However, there is an even greater flaw in his argument. This lies in assuming that the efficiency of converting light into electricity by a photovoltaic cell is limited by the same considerations that limit heat engines, when in fact such a cell is not a heat engine. The best analogy in this case is that of a storage battery that is charged and discharged at the same temperature. If heating-engine considerations were applied to this case, the above equation would indicate that $E=0$, so that no matter how much energy you could transmit to the battery, none would be extracted. However, real storage batteries are 80% to 90% efficient, as is the photocell. There is no theoretical reason why the efficiency could not be created as high as desired, although there may be practical reasons for not doing so. DR. HOWARD MARK Suffern, NY

CABLE TV CONVERTERS

With reference to the Looking Ahead article regarding the problem of cable TV converters used with VTR's, perhaps you'd be interested in a few of the tricks we've come up with to get around the converter hassles.

The first is quite simple: A few of the converter-only channels have harmonics that fall into the standard VHF TV broadcast frequencies, although not, of course, right on top of the existing channels. If you off-tune the fine-tuning adjustment far enough, these harmonics can be received as clearly as on Channels 2-13, without a converter box. Just what can be received this way will vary from cable company to cable company; obviously not all stations can be picked up without the little black box (actually ours is brown). For a start, Channel "1" comes in just off Channel 7. Most color sets and some black-and-white sets have enough range to pull in these extra channels. Presumably, the tuners on VCR's can also receive them (all our VTR's are studio models without integral tuners, so I don't know for sure).

The second trick is a bit more complex: We "borrowed" it from Philips. Here in Canada converters cost around \$100 a shot, except for Philips' little black box, which goes for \$45. Rather than having a mass of buttons and a varactor tuner, their "converter" is just an oscillator that shifts everything up into the TV's UHF frequency band, where the UHF tuner can sort out the extra channels, much like the front end of a superheterodyne radio. We've built up several circuits to do this, and, of course, they are very simple.

Thank you for the prolific video material you put into Radio-Electronics.
STEVE RIMMER
The Underground Tube
Markham, Canada

equipment reports

AP Products

Powerace Model 103

Breadboard Systems

THE POWERACE SERIES OF SOLDERLESS BREADBOARDING SYSTEMS manufactured by AP Products adds the convenience of combining various built-in power supplies, meters, LED indicators, switches, debouncing circuits, and pulse and clock generators on the basic plug-in matrix boards. If you do a fair amount of IC breadboarding, the usefulness of built-in sources and monitors is well worth their additional cost.

The model 103 Powerace includes three fixed-voltage power supplies. The alternative is to use three separate, or even combined, supplies, which with their bulk and interconnecting leads, add greatly to the cost of a basic breadboarding system and severely restrict its portability.

In the Powerace model 103, a slanted control panel contains the data and logic



CIRCLE 132 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

switches, power-supply distribution buses, a voltmeter, and an ON-OFF switch. The nearly horizontal breadboarding section is a 1680 terminal—a solderless panel composed of two AP Products Super Strips.

The Powerace model 103 has self-contained +5-volt power supplies, plus tracking +15-

volt and -15-volt power supplies. Ripple and noise measurements are less than or equal to 10 mV under full load, and load and line regulation is better than 1% for all three power supplies. The 5-volt supply is current-rated to 650 mA, and the +15-volt supplies are rated to 250 mA each. The power supplies are protected with a 1-amp fuse in the transformer primary, and their outputs are brought out to four-terminal distribution buses.

The zero-center, 5% accuracy voltmeter is calibrated from -15 to +15 volts and is wired to a solderless bus strip on the panel. One side of the meter and its corresponding four terminals are wired to the power-supply ground.

Two LED driver/displays (L1 and L2) are mounted on the control panel; each consists of an LED and a single solderless terminal that is used to jumper to the logic points that will be monitored on the breadboard section. Each LED indicator is driven by a Darlington-transistor-connected circuit with an LED current-limiting resistor and a 100K base input resistor. The maximum input drive current is 1 μ A.

NOTHING BEATS WRAP-WIRING for changeable, fast and reliable connections if you use NEW VECTOR WRAP POSTS and unique "SLIT-N.WRAP™ daisy chain wiring tools.

Rectangular shanks press into .041" diameter holes. Tight Posts are .025" sq.

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1. T46-4-9 NAIL HEAD, .032" high, pin length .30", \$16.91 per thousand.
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3. T49 TRIFURCATED Kip wrap post, Pin length .54", (Pin length .039" also available.) \$18.12 per thousand.
4. R32 SOCKET PINS fit DIP packages, .042" pin length above, .30" pin length below, \$112.42 per thousand.
5. T46-3-9 WRAP POST, double end, .42" pin length above and .48" below, \$30.00 per thousand. (Three other lengths also are offered.)
6. P184 SLIT-N.WRAP tool with wire. No pre-strip or cut. \$30.00.

Write for free samples of all five wrap post designs.

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ELECTRONIC COMPANY, 12460 Gladstone Av.,
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Prices subject to change without notice.

CIRCLE 55 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

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TELLS YOUR CUSTOMERS
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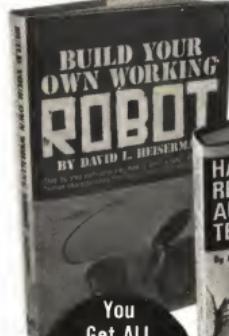
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RADIO-ELECTRONICS

24



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Build Your Own Working Robot

Complete instructions—plans, schematics, logic circuits, and wiring diagrams—for building Buster, the most unique pet in the world. Not just a novice, Buster is a sophisticated experiment in cybernetics. You will see how his sensors detect his surroundings, how his memory stores data, how his "brain" controls his personality develop as you add progressively more advanced circuitry to his mainframe. The first-phase robot, Buster I, is "brain-led," and dependent on his master for decision-making. Buster II is a basic brain, equipped with a wireless mike, he can enter a room and talk with its occupants. Buster III responds when called, and when "hungry" finds his charger, and plugs himself in. Watch his personality evolve as you build him from the ground up in a learning experience unparalleled in electronic construction. 238 pgs., 117 illus. List \$8.95.

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A practical, step-by-step guide to designing, building, and installing hundreds of remote control systems, and scores of automated devices...from garage door openers to light sensors, from intercom controls to electromechanical timers—to interfacing a microprocessor with household devices. You'll learn how to apply electronic and mechanical techniques to remote-control with computers, with audio tones, with ultrasonics, with radio waves, with light beams, with dozens of special systems. You can build light and power failure sensors, position indicators, tone-operated systems, tone generators, RC hydraulic devices, and you'll see how to interface mechanical devices, hydraulic systems, and electric motors with electronic systems. 294 pgs., 250 illus. List \$12.95.

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Two single-pole, double-throw (SPDT) data switches toggle between ground and the 5-volt power supply via an isolation resistor. Each SPDT switch can supply 10 mA, and four-terminal buses are provided for each. Two additional momentary contact Q-Q logic switches complete the controls. These SPDT switches toggle ground between the inputs of two 7403 flip-flops. The noninverted and inverted outputs of the two switch-controlled debouncing flip-flops are brought out to four-terminal buses. The flip-flops have a sink capability of 15 mA in the low state, and supply up to 5 mA in the high state.

The breadboard matrix itself uses tie-point blocks with 0.1" X 0.1-inch spacing. Two *Super Strips* are mounted side by side on a metallic ground plane, each strip with 25 five-terminal buses that can be chained to form supply ground feeders. Groups of five interconnected terminals form insertion points for IC's, with a total of 1280 tie points for plugging in circuit components. Nine 14-pin DIP's can fit on the *Super Strip*, which are composed of acetal copolymer. Transistors, resistors, capacitors and diodes can be inserted in the board by bending their leads to the proper spacing. The solderless pins accept solid wire between sizes AWG No. 20 and No. 30.

The model 103's instruction sheet comes complete with schematic and parts list so you know just where you stand in case you try some unconventional hookup. An optional breadboard jumper wire kit (No. 923351 JK1) contains a set of 350 No. 22 wires in 14 lengths—0.1 to 5 inches; the kit sells for \$10. The *Powerace* model 103 is priced at \$124.95. AP Products Incorporated, Box 110-Q, 72 Corwin Drive, Painesville, OH 44077. **R-E**

Simpson Model 462 Digital Multimeter



CIRCLE 133 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

SIMPSON ELECTRIC COMPANY (853 DUNDEE Ave., Elgin, IL 60120) has developed a very compact digital multimeter, the *model 462*. This DMM makes all the standard readings: AC/DC volts, ohms, and either AC or DC current, with an accuracy of 0.25% of reading. The display uses 3½-inch-high LED's that are large enough to be read 15 feet away.

Both AC and DC voltages start at a very low 0–200-mV range. The DMM reads DC up to 1000 volts, and AC to 600 volts RMS. The resistance range can be read from 1.0 ohm to 20 megohms, with the lowest resistance range from 0–2000 ohms.

Here comes the handy part: Both voltage ranges and the resistance ranges are *autoranging*. You can read any voltage from 0.01 to 1000 VDC without any adjustment; all you have to do is move the test leads! Just "stick 'em on" there and read the meter. Other features include fully automatic decimal-point placement and zeroing. Only the two lowest

voltage ranges, 0–200 mV, are not autoranging. The lowest resistance range, however, is autoranging, and is selected by pressing the white *AUTO* pushbutton. All other ranges are manually selected by pressing one of five grey pushbuttons in the bottom row.

You select the desired reading by pressing one of four black pushbuttons in the top row, marked K-Ohms, mA, 200 mV or V. The AC/DC and ON-OFF switches are push-push controls. All other controls are of the standard latching type; when one is pushed, the other is released. The pushbuttons are spaced far enough apart to allow a normal human fingertip to hit only the one desired. (I've seen earlier-model DMM's where you had to use a darning needle to hit 'em!)

The *model 462* is housed in a neat, compact and insulating plastic case. The test leads are recessed, no bare metal is exposed at all; test prods are also included with the *model 462*. The handles are corrugated with a guard ring, and the points are sharp. The test clips are well insulated; they screw on and won't fall off, which can save you a lot of time fishing them out of tight places in the chassis that you happen to be servicing.

The *model 462* is powered by four heavy-duty type AF NiCad batteries. A special charging unit with a recessed plug comes with the instrument. Fully charged batteries provide eight hours of use. The charger can be left permanently plugged in for bench work. For portable use, just pull the charger plug and take off. For emergencies when the heavy-duty batteries are not available, four AA NiCad batteries can be used, but they will provide only six hours of use.

continued on page 32

NEW LBO-508 DUAL TRACE OSCILLOSCOPE

A 20MHz OSCILLOSCOPE AT A 10MHz PRICE

SPECIFICATIONS

VERTICAL AMPLIFIER

IDENTICAL FOR BOTH CHANNELS
SENSITIVITY: 0.5 mV/div – 200 mV/div CALIBRATED IN 11 STEPS (1.0-20 DIVISIONS)

ACCURACY: ±2%

BANDWIDTH: 200 DC–20MHz (1 Oct., 4 and 10 MHz)

RESP. TIME: 17.5ns

INPUT IMPEDANCE: 1MΩ, GND, SHORTED OR SHIELDED BY 20pF (17.5ns)

INPUT COUPLING: AC, DC, GND

MAX. INPUT VOLTAGE: 600V DC & AC P-P

DISPLAY: CRT 5" DIAMETER

POLARITY: CH 1 & CH 2

INPUT CONNECTOR: BNC

TIME BASE

SWEEP SPEED: 0.5 MICROSECOND – 200MHz

ACCELERACY: ±2%

MAGNIFICATION: 10, 100 MAX. SPEED 10MHz/div

DUAL TRACE DISPLAY

MODE: CH 1 & CH 2, X-Y, DUAL, AUTO

DEPTH OF AUTOMATIC SEL. IN:

DUAL MODEL: 200ns/Div – 200mV

ALT. AUTOMATIC SEL. IN:

ALTERNATE MODE: 20ns/Div – 20mV

ADM: 20ns/Div – 20mV

X-Y DISPLAY

X = CH 1 Y = CH 2

SENSITIVITY: 0.5 mV/div – 200 mV/div

INPUT: CH 1 & CH 2

Y AXLE: 0.5mV/div – 200mV/div

X AXLE: 0.5ns/div – 20ns/div (1mV, 10mV)

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for general line and industrial
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GENERAL ELECTRIC



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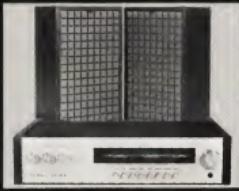
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EQUIPMENT REPORTS *continued from page 26*

The model 462 is well protected against accidental overload. Over-voltage protection is provided to 1000 volts on all autoranging modes and to 650 volts on even the manually selected 0–200-mV ranges. The AC ranges are protected up to 600 volts on the autorange, to 240 volts RMS on the two low ranges, and to 650 volts on the higher ranges. Even the ohmmeter ranges are protected against overvoltage up to 250 VRMS on all ranges. I made the stock AC rejection test, and it came out beautifully.

The model 462 is compact enough to carry in a tube-caddy or kit, yet versatile and accurate enough for any kind of electronics work. A large handful of usefulness in a very small box and it costs \$185.

R-E

6502 Editor Assembler

CIRCLE 125 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

THE 6502 MICROPROCESSOR HAS RECENTLY become very popular, and the success of the Commodore PET and Rockwell's support as a second source have increased its appeal. For those who have worked with KIM, Apple or JOLT computers, the available software has been only occasionally listed in magazines here and there. Carl Moser has now developed an editor-assembler that lets you create a source mnemonic listing, assemble it, execute it, store it on tape and relocate the assembled program anywhere in memory.

This enhanced version of an earlier edition uses about 5200 words of memory for the program itself, and is designed for computer systems with at least 8K of memory. The suggested partitioning is about 400 words for the object-code file, a matching 400 words for the label file and 2000 words for the text file. While the program can be reduced to about

continued on page 34



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A fact: you can choose your microphone to enhance your sound system.

Shure makes microphones for every imaginable use. Like musical instruments, each different type of Shure microphone has a distinctive "sound," or physical characteristic that optimizes it for particular applications, voices, or effects. Take, for example, the Shure SM58 and SM59 microphones:

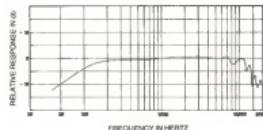


SM59

Mellow, smooth,
silent...

The SM59 is a relatively new, dynamic cardioid microphone. Yet it is already widely accepted as a standard for distinguished studio productions. In fact, you'll often see it on TV... especially on musical shows where perfection of sound quality is a major consideration. This revolutionary cardioid microphone has an exceptionally flat frequency response and neutral sound that reproduces exactly what it hears. It's designed to give good bass response when miking at a distance. Remarkably rugged — it's built to shrug off rough handling. And, it is superb in rejecting mechanical stand noise such as floor and desk vibrations because of a unique, patented built-in shock mount. It also features a special hum-bucking coil for superior noise reduction!

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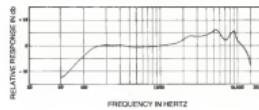


SM58

Crisp, bright
"abuse proof"

Probably the most widely used on-stage, hand-held cardioid dynamic microphone. The SM58 dynamic microphone is preferred for its punch in live vocal applications... especially where close-up miking is important. It is THE world-standard professional stage microphone with the distinctive Shure upper mid-range presence peak for an intelligible, lively sound. World-renowned for its ability to withstand the kind of abuse that would destroy many other microphones. Designed to minimize the boombiness you'd expect from close miking. Rugged, efficient spherical windscreens eliminate pops. Lightweight (15 ounces) hand-sized. The first choice among rock, pop, R & B, country, gospel, and jazz vocalists.

...some like a "presence" peak.



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EQUIPMENT REPORTS

continued from page 32

4400 words, this means sacrificing some functions, including one of the best—the EDIT command.

For maximum system flexibility and use, two external pieces of hardware are required: an audio cassette recorder, and a separate playback cassette machine. The system also supports a CRT, keyboard and printer.

The text editor, which occupies half of the program space, executes 20 commands. The AUTO command sets up automatic line numbering with user-specified increment size. Text files can be loaded, renumbered, recorded and printed. The RUN command executes an assembled program; the ASSEMBLE command calls the assembler; and the MANUSCRIPT command suppresses line numbers when listing. The EDIT command performs text file searches to change or delete selected alphanumeric characters within specified line-number ranges.

The assembler recognizes labels up to 10 characters long and has five conventional fields: line number, label, mnemonic, operand and comment. Assembly can be performed from the text file that was previously created with the text editor or from tape. Programs longer than available memory storage space are assembled from tape.

The first assembler pass generates the symbolic table (label file) and outputs whatever errors are detectable at that stage. A second pass creates the object file and output listings. An optional third assembler pass creates an

object file in relocatable format. A series of 16 pseudo-ops allow you to control assembler features such as continuing assembly in spite of low severity errors, as well as storing data bytes.

There are six listings: First, a hexadecimal dump program that produces a formatted object-code output listing. The next four listings are commented source listings, including break detection, motor control, relocating loading and tape loader software. The system is recorded on a cassette tape for easy initialization. The cassette loading program must be performed manually since it prepares the computer to load the editor-assembler tape itself.

The cassette tape, a 24-page manual and the program listings are available for \$30 from C. W. Moser, 3239 Linda Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

R-E

Hustler Model MOT Monitor Antenna

WITH THE WIDESPREAD USE OF THREE-BAND (low-VHF, high-VHF and UHF) programmable scanners, more and more antenna manufacturers are meeting the demand for compatible three-band monitor antennas. Newtronics Corporation (15800 Commerce Park Drive, Brookpark, OH 44142) has recently introduced the Hustler model MOT mobile antenna. The model MOT is available only as a trunk-mount unit. It performs well on the three frequency ranges for which it was designed—37–50 MHz, 150–174 MHz and 450–512 MHz.

The model MOT comes equipped with 16

feet of RG-58 coaxial cable, and is terminated with a Motorola antenna plug.

The model MOT is a center-trap antenna designed to act as a 16-inch one-quarter-wave whip when operating in the high-VHF band, and it automatically couples an additional 18 inches of active length (including resonant trap) when operating in the low-VHF band. The lower 16 inches is used as a three-quarter-wave whip in the UHF band.

The mounting assembly is firmly secured, both mechanically and electrically, to the trunk lid of a car by tightening two Allen-head set screws (a wrench is provided).

Because the entire antenna when mounted measures less than 3 feet, the model MOT poses no particular problem when used under normal mobile operating conditions. No tuning or pruning of the antenna is required; it is factory-prettened.

In our tests, the model MOT proved most satisfactory for a low-cost, three-band monitor antenna. Remember that a mobile antenna uses the vehicle body as part of a complete system, and unless the manufacturer's recommended application techniques are not followed closely, the antenna cannot be expected to perform at maximum efficiency.

The antenna comes in a blister package for rack display, with the element separated from the mount. The element is easily installed through a hole in a tightening nut and locked securely in place on the mount by a small wrench (also provided).

The model MOT monitoring antenna appears to be well designed and rugged enough to withstand most mobile monitoring applications. It is available for \$24.95.

R-E

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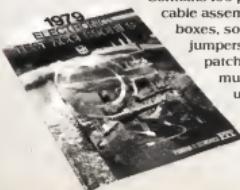
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String Synthesizer

An introduction to the latest innovation in electronic music synthesizers. The string synthesizer gives the soloist and small groups the background needed to enhance the performance.

MARVIN JONES

STRING SYNTHESIZERS, AND THEIR RECENT popularity, represent the culmination of over a decade's worth of work in developing and improving electronic music synthesizers. String synthesizers are the first of what we expect will be a long line of special-purpose instruments designed to avoid the clutter of patch cords and a strong technical background required to run the early breeds of synthesizers. Recent surges of interest in guitar and drum synthesizers indicate that these instruments will follow in the string synthesizers' path.

It is very natural that the string synthesizer was the first special-purpose synthesizer to come along. Since the inception of popular music, one of the staples of the "hit record" sound has been the lush, flowing orchestrated backgrounds. Unfortunately, few vocalists and solo musicians do well enough to allow hiring orchestras to perform live. Thus, the lush background was always missing in concerts. Organs helped, but weren't quite the same. Then there's always the problem of being able to afford an orchestra for the recording session in the first place! String synthesizers have changed all that. Now musicians are using these units to perform anything from country music to avant garde, in locations ranging from your neighborhood bar to Madison Square Garden!

Strangely enough, the basic circuitry in a string synthesizer is more a result of

combo organ technology than of synthesizer technology. The rich moving sounds they produce are so powerful that most anyone (musician or not) gets a kick out of playing with them. And all the commercially available units use the same basic circuitry to achieve the effect of violins and cellos 'en masse.'

This article will describe how to build a professional-quality string synthesizer, but first let's take a look at how these magical machines are used, and then

discuss how the circuitry works. The model 1550 synthesizer is of particular interest since it is available in kit form as well as assembled, and there are a number of options available such as stereo outputs and a microprocessor interface card. The instrument also produces a percussive electric-piano voicing.

How it is used

The majority of the features on string synthesizers can be found on the front

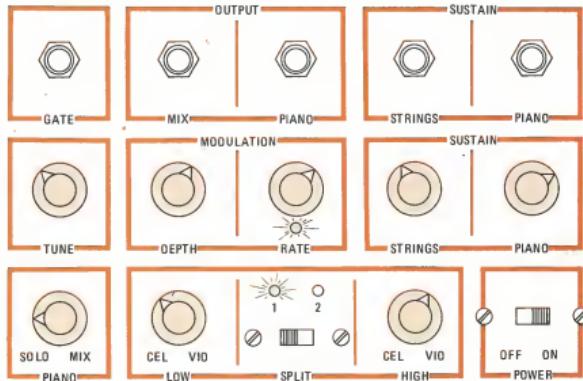


FIG. 1—LAYOUT OF THE CONTROL PANEL. It is operated with the left hand. Five jacks are provided for output and interfacing connections.

panel of the instrument. The front panel of the model 1550 is shown in Fig. 1. All connection points for outputs and interfacing are in the top row of the panel, and are provided via five 1/4-inch phone jacks. The bottom two rows of the panel provide the multiple user controls which alter and mix the various voices of this instrument.

The GATE jack provides a voltage which steps from 0 to about +9 volts whenever a key is pressed on the keyboard. This allows the instrument to trigger external effects or processing equipment such as synthesizer modules. Many of the standard synthesizers manufactured today have an array of "systems interfacing" jacks to allow external signals to be processed and become the basis for more complex sounds with polyphonic synthesizer textures. When string synthesizers are used in this way, it is easy to synthesize "brass" sounds, and other special effects using the circuitry inside the syn-

thesizer in conjunction with the string synthesizer.

There are two signal outputs on the stock synthesizer. The first is the MIX output, or the master output. At this jack will appear the sustained string voices plus a variable mix of the electric piano sound. The second output provides only the PIANO signal. This output is useful if you wish to use separate mixing, equalization, or special effects for the two different voicings. When using a standard 1/4-inch 2-conductor phone plug in the PIANO jack, the piano signal is automatically removed from the composite signal at the MIX jack. This allows complete separation of the two types of signals if desired. Alternatively, you could use a 1/4-inch 3-conductor phone plug which has no connection made to the ring section of the plug. The piano signal will appear now at both output jacks, with the user selecting either or both outputs with the PIANO mix control (explained later).

The SUSTAIN jacks allow provisions for remote control of the amount of time it takes for a signal to fade out once the key is released. For those of you familiar with synthesizer terminology, this would actually relate to the "release" control on an ADSR (Attack, Delay, Sustain, Release) envelope generator. Note that there are separate, fully variable sustain controls for each of the two types of signals—string and piano. Some commercial units have only a long/short sustain switch, or no control at all. The most common use of the sustain jacks will be for sustain foot switches, which will operate much like the sustain pedal on an acoustic piano. When the two conductors of the jack are shorted together, the front panel sustain control will operate normally to set the minimum sustain time. When the foot switch contacts are opened, the sustain time increases to maximum as though the front panel control were turned to maximum. For the foot switch itself, a normally

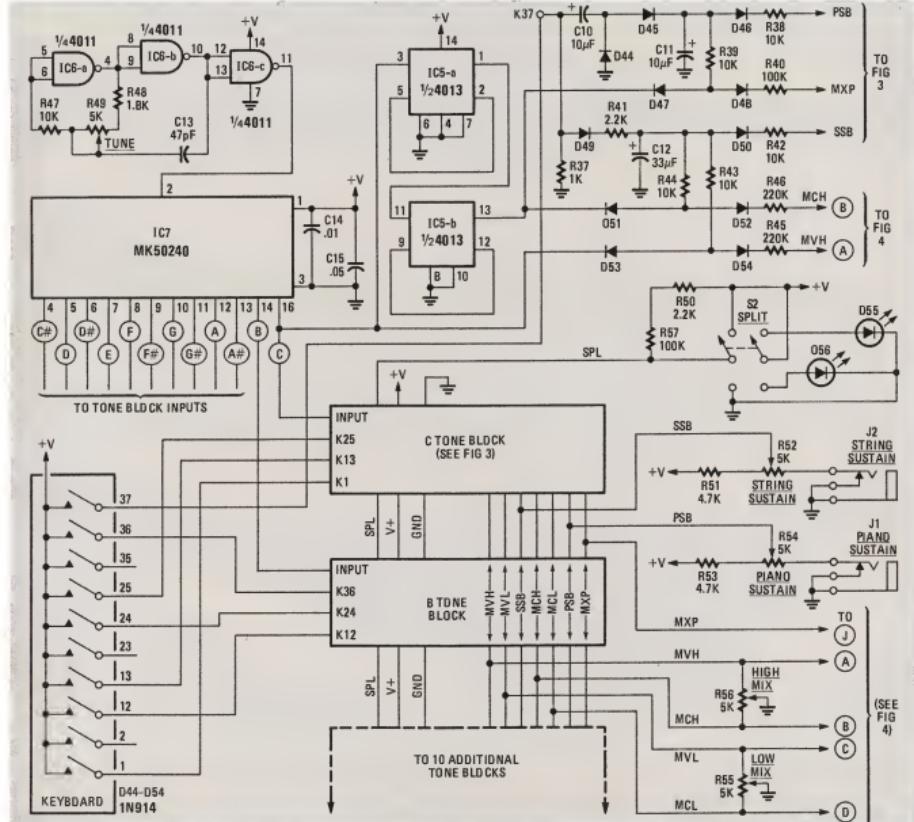


FIG. 2—BASIC SCHEMATIC for the main section. This circuit contains the twelve identical tone blocks that develop the shaping, keying and mixing for the three octaves of each note.

closed momentary-contact switch can be used to provide action similar to acoustic piano sustain pedals, or a positive contact switch can be used to provide push-on, push-off sustain control action.

Internal design of the model 1550 synthesizer allows for use of variable foot pedals (such as pedal volume control voltage (0 to +5 volts) to remotely program the sustain times for either of the voices. This allows all the versatility of the front panel controls without requiring the musician to remove his hands from the keyboard.

The TUNE control is fairly standard. It allows the instrument to be tuned to other instruments, yet provides a full octave of transposition so you can extend the range of the instrument for special compositions. With a little practice, the TUNE control can even be used as a performance device, allowing orchestral glides or pitch blends for special effects.

Perhaps the most important and powerful controls on the model 1550 (or any string synthesizer) are those controls that allow the user to modify the operation of the chorusing and vibrato circuits. These controls are important in allowing each musician to alter the basic string sound to suit musical requirements or individual tastes. Unfortunately, this is where many commercial units fall short in the eyes of musicians. The chorusing circuitry is responsible for taking the single "reedy" voice of the organ circuitry and making it sound as if there are a great number of simultaneous voices occurring. This effect is obtained by using analog delay lines to generate two "echoes" of the original signal. The time delay is so short (constantly varying between 0.5 ms and 20 ms) that it is not heard as a distinct echo. Rather, it appears as if there is another instrument playing in unison with the original voice. With two delay lines, we can generate three-voice chorusing which is sufficient to confuse the human ear into believing it is hearing a large number of voices. By now you should see why this circuitry is so important to the effective generation of orchestral effects.

This synthesizer provides two controls for user alteration of chorusing effects. DEPTH determines the amount of chorusing in the effect. At minimum setting, there is no frequency modulation occurring at all, yielding a bland reed-organ voice. This would be useful for basic combo organ effects, or for external processing as mentioned earlier. As the DEPTH control is advanced, the two delayed voices are frequency modulated by an increasing amount. At approximate mid-rotation, the typical string chorus with vibrato is achieved. Further rotation of the control creates very heavy vibrato and pitch deviations of about a semi-tone for special effects.

The RATE control varies the speed of pitch fluctuations (vibrato) in the

chorusing circuitry. At minimum, the vibrato is so slow that it is not heard as actual pitch variations but as a rich, ethereal rolling effect similar to several phase shifters or flangers sweeping simultaneously. This control setting provides a thick pipe-organ effect that is actually spine-tingling! As it is advanced, the vibrato rate increases through normal settings to fast quivering vibrato for special effects. The adjacent LED indicates the speed of one of the low-frequency vibrato oscillators for use as a visual guide of control settings when you are on stage or in the studio.

The PIANO SOLO/MIX control is used to send the piano voice to either the master MIX output, or to the solo PIANO output. The control acts as a panning control, so the signal can be applied to the two outputs in any blend. When using only the MIX output, the PIANO control will act as a volume control for the amount of piano signal available in the master mix. When a standard 2-conductor 1/4-inch plug is used to carry the piano signal from the PIANO jack, the piano signal is disabled from the MIX jack and the PIANO MIX control will act as a volume control for the amount of signal appearing at the PIANO jack. When a 3-conductor plug is used (with no connection to the ring) for the piano output, the PIANO MIX control acts as a panning control to send variable amounts of piano signal to the two outputs. Interesting stereo imaging effects can be obtained with this configuration.

The large box of controls centered in the bottom of the panel is used to design the string voicing you desire. The SPLIT switch is used to select the point at which the keyboard can be divided. At position 1, the keyboard voicing will be split at the first octave. In position 2, the keyboard will split at the second octave. LED's show the selected split location at a glance. Once the split function is selected, the LOW mix control will set the desired blend of violins and cellos for all keys below the selected split position. The performer can select violins only, cellos only, or any combination of the two. It should be mentioned here that the cellos are 2 octaves lower than the violins.

The HIGH mix control serves a similar function for all keys above the selected keyboard split point. With these controls, you can easily configure the keyboard for the type of music you will be playing. For example, if the composition uses simple droneing cello parts, but a violin part that moves and jumps over a wide range, then you would set the split switch for the first octave, and set the LOW mix for cellos and HIGH mix for violins. An infinite variety of voicings are available with these controls. The string mix and split controls take on added power when the stereo output is added to the unit. With the option installed, the selected split location can also become the point at which the stereo effect is split. Or, in an alternate

stereo operation mode, the violins can be routed to one side and cellos to the other side. In this mode, the LOW and HIGH mix controls are instrumental in determining the "width" of the stereo effect by determining the violin/cello content of each half of the keyboard.

How it works

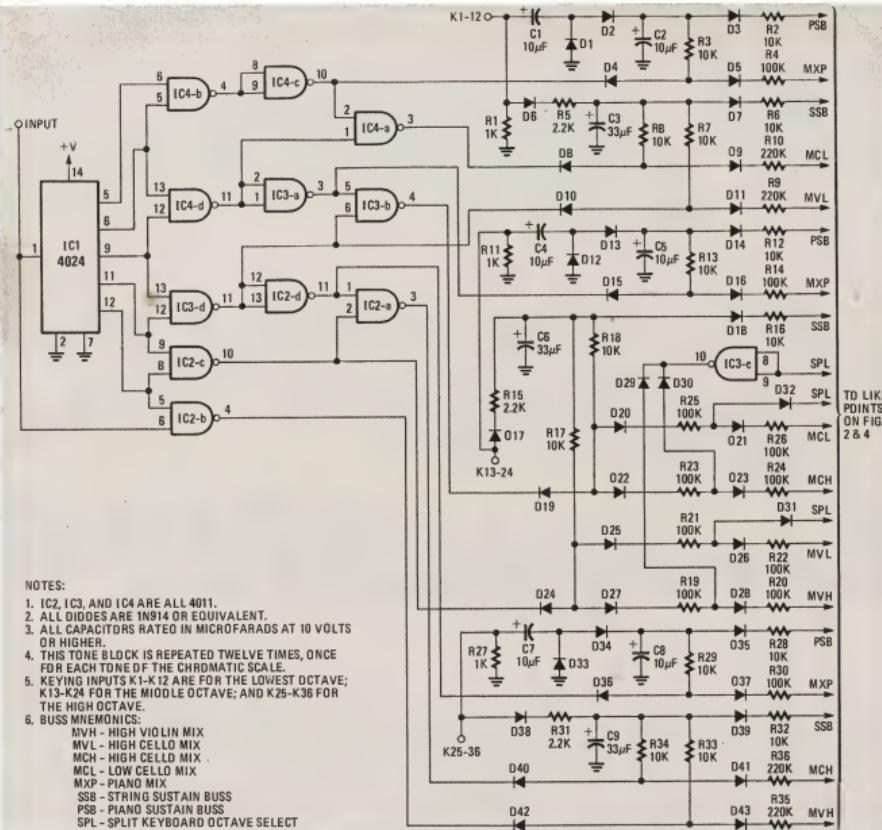
The schematic for the main circuit is shown in Fig. 2. Three of the four gates in IC6 generate a high-frequency clock signal (around 1 MHz). This clock signal is applied to the Top-Octave Generator, IC7, where it is divided by the twelve integers required to produce the twelve equally tempered frequencies of a scale. These frequencies will be divided into the lower octaves inside each of their respective tone blocks. Since the keyboard used in this synthesizer is actually 3 octaves plus one note (the highest "C"), additional circuitry must be provided for the tone generation of that extra note.

IC5 and associated resistors, capacitors, and diodes provide this function. This circuitry works exactly like the circuitry in the Tone Blocks, and will be discussed later. The additional circuitry in Fig. 2 shows the operation of the various front panel controls. The SPLIT switch, S2, generates a high (+V) or low (ground) logic signal which represents a high or low keyboard split location, respectively. The second section of S2 controls the LED SPLIT function indicators. Sustain controls, R52 and R54, generate control voltages that are variable from 0 to about +5 volts.

The selected control voltage is applied to the buses that run along the edge of the tone block circuit boards. Thus, this voltage is a master control that effects the sustain time of all thirty-seven notes of the keyboard. The sustain jacks, J1 and J2, provide an interrupt function for the sustain control voltage. When a plug is inserted into a jack, the voltage on that sustain bus can be remotely varied or switched (shunted) for variable sustain function. The MVH, MVL, MCH and MLH string voice signal buses (Mix Violins High, Mix Violins Low, Mix Cellos High, and Mix Cellos Low) are applied to mix controls, R55 and R56.

With these controls, the signals can be shunted to ground in the desired proportions. The resulting mixtures of string voices, as well as the raw piano-bus signal, is fed to additional circuitry for final processing.

In Fig. 2, also note that +V is applied to the common bus of the keyboard, and depression of any key provides, in effect, a logic signal to the tone block circuitry. A positive voltage designates a key being played. The open circuit of a released key is pulled back to ground by an input pull down resistor at each keying input of each tone block. Master buses running throughout the tone blocks also distribute +V, ground, and the split logic signal.



NOTES:

1. IC2, IC3, AND IC4 ARE ALL 4011.
2. ALL DIODES ARE 1N914 OR EQUIVALENT.
3. ALL CAPACITORS ARE RATED IN MICROFARADS AT 10 VOLTS OR HIGHER.
4. THIS TONE BLOCK IS REPEATED TWELVE TIMES, ONCE FOR EACH TONE OF THE CHROMATIC SCALE.
5. KEYING INPUTS K1-K12 ARE FOR THE LOWEST OCTAVE; K12-K24 FOR THE MIDDLE OCTAVE; AND K25-K36 FOR THE HIGH OCTAVE.
6. BUSS MNEMONICS:
 - MVH - HIGH VIOLIN MIX
 - MVL - HIGH CELLO MIX
 - MCH - HIGH CELLO MIX
 - MCL - LOW CELLO MIX
 - MXP - PIANO MIX
 - SSB - STRING SUSTAIN BUSS
 - PSB - PIANO SUSTAIN BUSS
 - SPL - SPLIT KEYBOARD OCTAVE SELECT

FIG. 3—CIRCUIT OF ONE OF THE TWELVE TONE BLOCKS. These identical circuits provide the necessary waveshaping, keying and mixing for all notes. The mixing and chorusing circuit (Fig. 4) will be presented next month.

The circuitry for one of the twelve tone blocks is shown in Fig. 3. This circuitry generates the waveshaping, keying, and mixing for three octaves of any chromatic note. The twelve tone blocks are identical and all are contained on two large PC boards in addition to the top octave and highest "C" circuitry discussed in the main schematic.

The whole process begins with the input of a high-pitched squarewave from the top-octave generator. This waveform switches between +V and ground, and directly drives the input of the tone block circuitry. IC1 is a 4024 7-stage counter which divides the input frequency into lower octaves. Only the first five divisions, plus the original input, will be used. The first bank of NAND gates (IC4-b and -d, IC3-a and IC2-b and -c) are driven by the counter and used to convert the squarewave signals to pulse waves with a 25% duty cycle.

The harmonic content of this type waveform more closely approximates the sound of a violin. The high-octave violin signal is obtained at pin 4 of IC2-b, while the middle-octave violin appears at pin 10 of IC2-c, and the low violin at pin 11 of IC3-d. The three lowest octaves of NAND gate outputs are additionally fed through inverters consisting of IC4-c, IC3-a, and IC2-d. This inversion maintains proper phase relationships so the remaining waveshaping circuit will operate correctly.

Immediately after inversion, these waveforms are selected for use as the piano signal. At this point, these waveforms still have a 25% duty cycle. Finally, NAND gates IC4-a, IC3-b, and IC2-a are used to mix the inverted waveform with the non-inverted waveform which originated one octave higher. The result is a pulse wave with a 12.5% duty cycle. The extremely wide harmonic spacing

occurring in this waveform very closely approximates a cello waveform, and is consequently used as the signal source for this voicing.

The remaining keying and mixing circuitry is roughly divided into three sections, one for each octave that will be keyed by the keyboard. Additionally, each of these three sections is further divided into a section for strings and another for the piano effect. The input terminal labelled K1-K12 is the lowest octave keying input. NOTE that there is actually only one input at this point to each tone block. However, this one point will be labelled differently for each chromatic tone block. For example: K1 will be in the "C" tone block, K2 in the "C#" tone block, and so on through K12 in the "B" tone block.

When a key is depressed, the keying input jumps to a positive voltage. The first thing to happen is the piano keying.

PARTS LIST

The following lists the components according to type and quantity and is included as an aid to help you acquire the parts necessary to build the model 1550.

Resistors — $\frac{1}{4}$ -watt, 10% unless otherwise noted

- 5—10 ohms
- 1—100 ohms
- 5—470 ohms
- 46—1000 ohms
- 1—1800 ohms
- 37—2200 ohms
- 6—2700 ohms
- 6—4700 ohms
- 1—8200 ohms
- 205—10,000 ohms
- 1—15,000 ohms
- 3—22,000 ohms
- 147—100,000 ohms
- 50—220,000 ohms
- 1—170,000 ohms

Potentiometers

- 2—100 ohms, trimmer
- 5—10,000 ohms, trimmer
- 1—50,000 ohms, trimmer
- 7—5000 ohms, linear taper
- 1—100,000 ohms, dual-section, linear taper

Capacitors

- 1—47 pF disc ceramic
- 2—100 pF disc ceramic

- 1—500 pF disc ceramic
- 10—.001 μ F disc ceramic
- 3—.01 μ F disc ceramic
- 7—.05 μ F disc ceramic
- 1—0.1 μ F Mylar
- 12—1 μ F, 10 volts, electrolytic
- 2—2.2 μ F, 10 volts, electrolytic
- 4—5 μ F, 10 volts, electrolytic
- 82—10 μ F, 10 volts, electrolytic
- 37—33 μ F, 10 volts, electrolytic
- 1—250 μ F, 20 volts, electrolytic
- 1—1000 μ F, 20 volts, electrolytic
- Semiconductors**
- 12—CD4024 7-stage divider (RCA, National, Motorola)
- 37—CD4011 quad NAND gate (RCA, Motorola, National)
- 1—MK50240 top-octave generator (Mostek, AMI)
- 2—CD4013 Dual D-type flip-flop (Motorola, National, RCA)
- 1—7805 positive 5-volt regulator (Motorola, National, Signetics)
- 1—7905 negative 5-volt regulator (Motorola, National, Signetics)
- 1—CA3080 transconductance amplifier (RCA)
- 2—SAD-124 analog delay line (Reticon)
- 4—566 voltage-controlled oscillator (Signetics, National)
- 4—2N5139 or similar NPN transistor
- 1—2N5129, 2N3904 or similar PNP transistor
- 4—1N4003 rectifier diodes
- 527—1N914 silicon switching diode
- 3—TIL209 red light-emitting diode
- Miscellaneous**
- 1—power transformer, 24 VCT, 1A
- 40—flea clips
- 2—socket, 16-pin DIP (for SAD-1024's) control knobs, mounting hardware, case, line cord, etc.

Note: The following are available from Paia Electronics, 1020 W. Wilshire, Oklahoma City, OK 73116:

1550A PC board \$30.00 postpaid

1550B PC board \$30.00 postpaid

1550C PC board \$10.00 postpaid

1550LED PC board \$2.00 postpaid

(All boards are etched, drilled and screened with parts placement layout.)

Set of four PC boards \$70.00 postpaid

1A-37-note (3-octave) organ keyboard (Order No. AGO-37) \$60.00 plus \$5.00 postage and handling

Complete kit of parts including case, keyboard and step-by-step instructions (Order No. 1550) \$295.00 shipped freight collect

Fully assembled unit (order No. 1550AS) \$600.00 freight collect.

The positive step-voltage that is dropped across R1 is differentiated by C1. The positive spike generated is sufficient to forward bias D2 and dump a charge on C2. Simultaneously, C1 is charging to absorb that +V which has been applied to it. By the time the positive charging spike for C2 falls and C1 has a full charge, D2 has become reverse biased, eliminating the front end of this circuit as a possible discharge path for the charge on C2. The only possible discharge is through R3 and R4 to the virtual ground of the piano mix bus (MXP). This R—C combination (R3, R4, C2) sets the maximum sustain time for the piano signal.

To get a variable amount of shorter sustain time, the voltage on the piano sustain bus (PSB) can be lowered from about +5 volts to ground with the front panel control. If this bus is anywhere lower than the peak charge of C2 (about +5 volts), D3 becomes forward biased, offering C2 a lower impedance discharge path through R2. This causes the charge on C2 to fall more rapidly than normal thus making the sustain time shorter. When the key is released, the drop in keying voltage across R1 causes a negative spike to be generated by C1. Diode D1 becomes forward-biased by the spike and shorts it to ground. Resistor R1 will then serve to quickly discharge C1, preparing the piano keying circuit for the next key depression.

The only remaining section of the piano circuit is the signal-gating (envelope or amplitude contour) circuitry built around D4 and D5. This circuit is the

standard diode-keying configuration that has been used in electronic organs for quite some time. The pulse wave being used as the piano-signal source is being continuously applied to the cathode of D4. While the piano circuit is at rest, C2 is discharged leaving the anode of D4 at ground. This leaves D4 continuously reverse-biased and stops any signal transmission through it. When a key is pressed, a pattern of rising and falling DC voltage is generated across C2 as described earlier. This voltage will now forward bias D4 and allow the piano signal to pass. When the piano signal happens to be at a high level (the top of the pulse wave), the voltage at the junction of D4 and D5 will be pulled up to a DC voltage equivalent to the charge remaining on C2. When the piano pulse wave switches to a low level (near ground), D4 conducts and the junction of D4 and D5 will be pulled nearly to ground.

This high-speed (audio frequency) switching continues until the C2 charge has been depleted via the discharge path through R3 and R4. From the previous discussion, we see that the charge on C2 has a sharp increase followed by a long decay. The audio signal passed through D4 and D5 takes on the same attack and decay characteristics, thus duplicating the effect of a plucked or hammered piano string.

Diode D5 is used primarily to avoid interaction with other notes which may be simultaneously applied to the audio mix buses. In addition to being one of the

major determinants of the timing for the piano effect, R4 is also used as a mixing resistor and gain-setting component for this one piano note.

The same low-octave keying input we have been discussing for the piano circuits will also be used to gate a violin and cello sound at the same time. The keying voltage applied to R1 will forward bias D6 and cause C3 to charge via R5. The larger value of C3 and the current limiting of R5 cause C3 to charge more slowly, generating a "softer" attack, to more closely imitate the build-up that occurs when a section of strings bows a new note. This DC voltage is concurrently applied to two diode keying sections. Resistor R8, D8, and D9 are used to gate the low-octave cello signal being applied to D8. Resistor R7, D10, and D11 impose envelope control on the violin signal.

The entire keying section for the top octave of the tone block is identical to the circuitry we have just covered. The high-octave keying inputs are K22 through K36, and the high-octave signal sources are tapped from higher frequency outputs of the NAND gate waveshaping circuit. Also, the violin and cello outputs from the high-octave keying are permanently connected to the high-violin and cello-mix buses. Otherwise, the circuits are the same.

Next month we will discuss the power supply and the middle-octave mixing and chorusing circuits and then go on to construction details. This will include foil patterns for the PC boards and diagrams showing parts placement.

BUILD THIS

Solar Tracking System

Solar-energy collectors work best when constantly oriented to trap the most energy from the sun. This electronic servo system swivels the collector panel so it follows the sun across the sky.

RODNEY A. KREUTER

THE MOST COMMON USES FOR SOLAR energy systems today are space heating and hot-water preheating. These systems generally use nonmovable flat-plate collectors; and for low-temperature system, flat plate is probably the best choice. If, however, your system needs high-temperature water or steam, or uses solar cells to generate electricity, a tracking system is the only way to go.

A solar tracking system consists of a motor-sensor combination that locates the sun and points a collector toward it. A non-sensing system can even be built using a constant speed motor, but such a system has more disadvantages than advantages.

The solar collector tracking system discussed in this article is intended as a guide, not as an absolute system. (For example, why track the sun if there is little or no energy to be gained?) We'll examine how to construct a simple circuit using a com-

parator that will not let the motor operate until a certain level of sunlight is present.

The basic system

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of the solar tracking system, which consists of four basic modules: 1) a pair of phototransistor sensors; 2) a difference amplifier; 3) a deadband amplifier; and 4) a servomotor and motor drive transistors.

Figure 2 shows how the phototransistor sensor is constructed. Note that the phototransistors are mounted on perpendicular surfaces so that a shadow effect occurs when the sun is not directly overhead.

The difference amplifier (see Fig. 1) subtracts the output of sensor B from the output of sensor A and multiplies the result by about 4.7.

The deadband amplifier is a fairly unique device. It amplifies the output of the difference amplifier by about

2.5 only if the output of the difference amplifier is greater than 0.6 volt

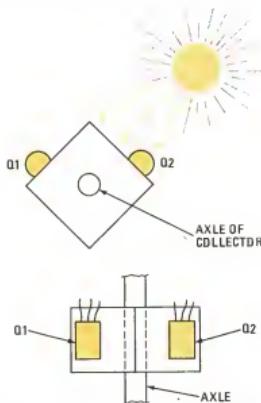


FIG. 2—PHOTOTRANSISTOR SENSORS are mounted at right angles to each other. The output of the sensors are equal when the sun is directly over the apex.

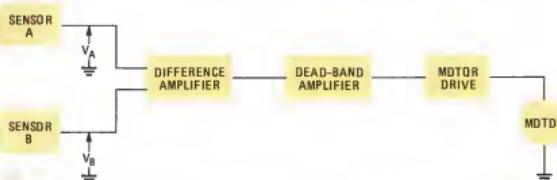


FIG. 1—SOLAR TRACKING SYSTEM uses phototransistor sensors to detect the position of the sun. Circuitry drives motor to position solar energy panels and minimize the difference in output from the two sensors.

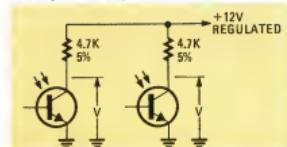
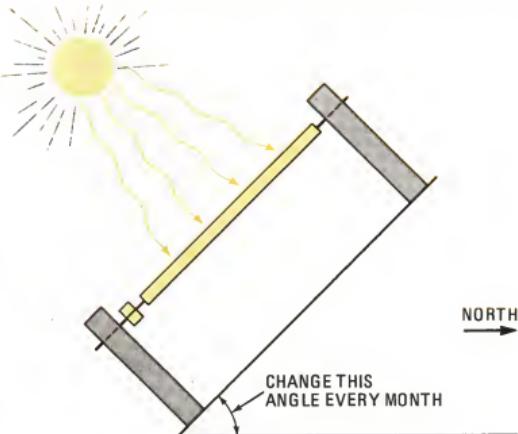


FIG. 3—PHOTOTRANSTISOR SENSORS must have matched outputs for correct circuit operation. Circuit above provides easy method for obtaining matched outputs.



or less than -0.6 volt. If the output of the difference amplifier is between -0.6 volt and 0.6 volt, the deadband amplifier provides a stable zero volt output.

The servomotor drive circuit consists of four push-pull Darlington connected transistors, which produce enough current to drive a fair-sized 12-volt motor.

Circuit operation

Two phototransistors are used as brightness sensors. When operated from a constant-voltage power supply, the collector current of each transistor is proportional to the amount of illumination they receive.

Due to variations in manufacturing processes, the phototransistors may not be well matched, so it is a good idea to buy a few extra phototransistors and match them yourself. The procedure is very simple.

First, breadboard the circuit shown in Fig. 3. Place two phototransistors side by side with the flat side down. Shine a *diffused* light source (a handkerchief placed over a bare high-intensity bulb will do) on the transistors. Note that the base connection is not used.

Apply power to the circuit and measure the voltage from one of the collectors to ground; this will be your reference transistor. Adjust the dis-

tance of the light source so that the reference voltage reads about 3. Measure the collector voltage of the second transistor and write it down. Repeat this procedure with a reference voltage of 6 and 9, measuring all the transistors against the same reference transistor. Select the two transistors that give the closest results for your sensors.

PARTS LIST

All resistors $\frac{1}{2}$ watt, 10%.
R1—100 ohms (to start—see text)
R2—680 ohms (to start—see text)
R3—500-ohm trimmer (to start—see text)
R4, R6, R12, R13—100,000 ohms
R5, R7—470,000 ohms
R8—5000-ohm trimmer
R9, R10—3300 ohms
R11—10,000 ohms
R14, R15—1000 ohms
C1—C4—0.001 μ F
C5, C6—0.1 μ F
D1—D4—1N914
D5, D6—50-volt rectifiers (current rating depends on motor current)
Q1, Q2—2N5777 photodarlington or equal
Q3—2N2222
Q4—MJE3055
Q5—2N2907
Q6—MJE2955
A1, A2—Op-amps, dual 741, 1558, 747, two 741's, two 301's, etc. Pin numbers depend on type and case style; 3900 or 324 types not recommended.
S1, S2—Normally closed switches
M1—12-volt reversible motor
Misc.—Power supply, case, shielded cable for sensors, etc.

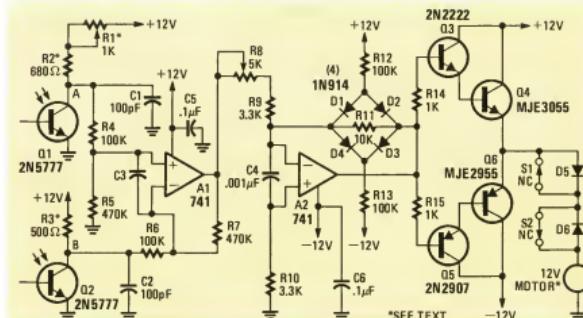


FIG. 4—CIRCUITRY detects difference in output from phototransistor sensors and switches the Darlington motor-drive transistors to minimize the difference.

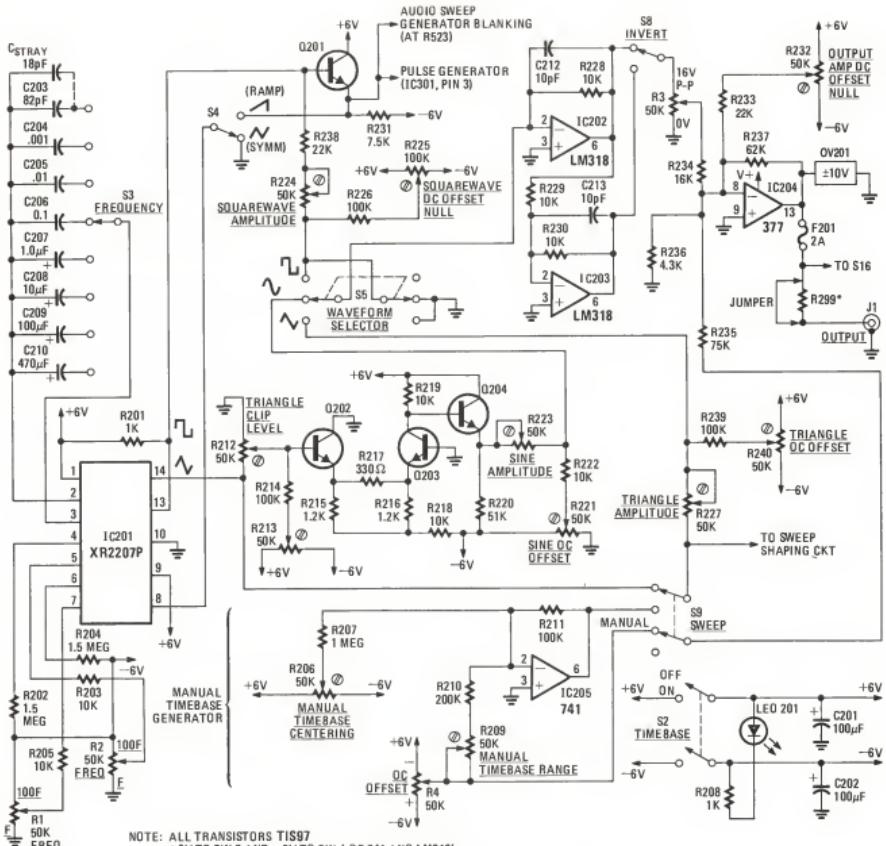


FIG. 4.—THE TIMEBASE GENERATOR is designed around the Exar 2207 current-controlled oscillator. Frequency is determined by switchable capacitors and two slide pots on the front panel.

TIMEBASE

Resistors, $\frac{1}{4}$ watt, 5% unless otherwise specified

R201, R208—1000 ohms
R202, R204—1-5 megohms
R203, R205, R218, R219, R222,
R228—R230—10,000 ohms
R206, R209, R212, R213, R221,
R223—R225, R227, R232, R240—50,000
ohms, trimmer
R207—1 megohm
R210—200,000 ohms
R211, R214, R226, R233, R239—100,000
ohms
R215, R216—1200 ohms
R217—310 ohms
R220—51,000 ohms
R231—7500 ohms

R234—16,000 ohms

R235—75,000 ohms

R236—4300 ohms

R237—62,000 ohms

R238—22,000 ohms

R299—See text

Capacitors

C201, C202—100 pF, 10 volts

C203—82 pF

C204—0.001 μ F

C205—0.01 μ F

C206—0.1 μ F

C207—1.0 μ F, aluminum electrolytic, low voltage, low leakage. See text.

C208—10 μ F, aluminum electrolytic, low voltage, low leakage. See text.

C209—100 μ F, aluminum electrolytic, low voltage, low leakage. See text.

voltage, low leakage. See text.
C210—470 μ F, aluminum electrolytic, low voltage, low leakage. See text.

C212, C213—10 pF

Q201—Q204—TIS97

IC201—XR-2207

IC202, IC203—LM318

IC204—LM337

IC205—LM741

OV201—LA 10 over-voltage limiter

F201—2-amp fuse

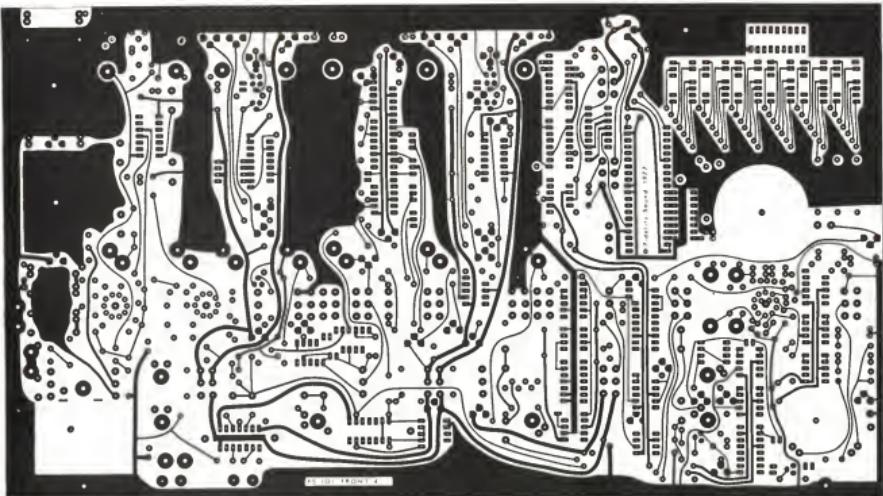
S2, S9—SPDT toggle switch

S3, S8—SPDT toggle switch

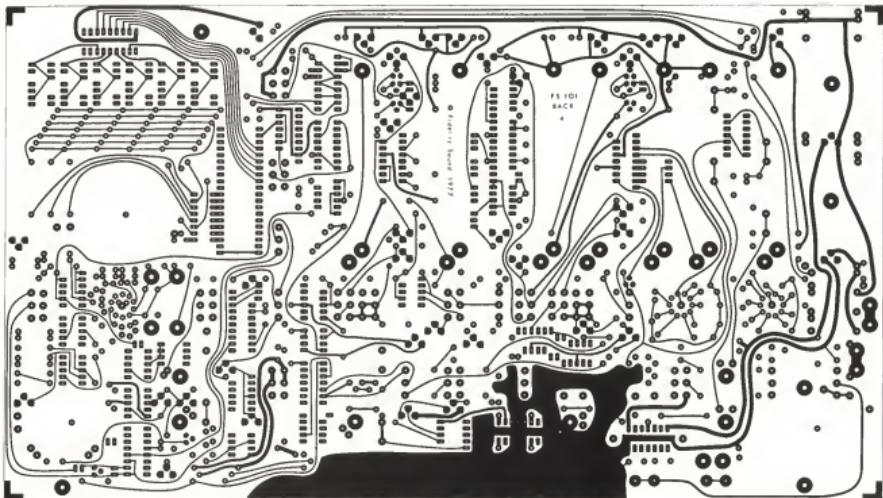
S4, S8—SPDT toggle switch

S5—DPDT toggle switch

J1—BNC panel jack



PRINTED CIRCUIT PATTERN for the front side of the PC board shown half size. Most components are on this side.



FOIL PATTERN for the back surface of the board shown half size. It carries the fuses and most trimmers.

charging current supplied to the capacitor. The output of the integrator is then fed back to the comparator.

The integrator is essentially a constant-current source applied to a capacitor. If the current applied to the capacitor is constant, the change in voltage across that capacitor will also be constant. When power is applied, the output of the comparator begins to charge the capacitor through the constant-current source. This causes the voltage across the capacitors to rise linearly. When that voltage, which is

applied back to the comparator, reaches a predetermined point, the comparator switches states and begins to charge the capacitor in the reverse direction. This causes the voltage across the integrating capacitor to change linearly in the opposite direction.

The result is that the output of the integrator is a triangle wave and the output of the comparator is a squarewave. The peaks of the triangle wave align with the edges of the squarewave since it is these edges that cause the integrator to

change its output slope. If the charging rates represented by the plus and minus slopes of the integrator are equal, the slopes will be of equal magnitude and opposite sign, and, hence, both the triangle wave and the squarewave will be symmetrical.

The output of the integrator is at IC201 pin 14, and the comparator output is at pin 13. Both these outputs are buffered and do not represent the actual oscillator voltages.

continued on page 78

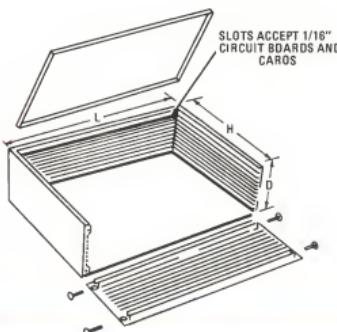
ROUNDUP

Cases And Cabinets For Your Projects

ONE OF THE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS FACING THE amateur electronic experimenter and constructor is the physical layout and appearance of the finished project. In the days of vacuum tubes and 12 by 16 in. chassis, most projects could be finished off nicely by adding a front panel and slipping the whole thing into a cabinet that could be handcrafted from wood or readily available sheet metals. Today, most electronic projects are assembled on printed-circuit boards or similar materials and are sometimes only one-tenth the size of its old vacuum-tube equivalent.

To select a case or enclosure that is most suitable for your project, you must have a pretty good idea as to what is available. Too, if your make and model specified in a magazine article is not available through your usual supplier, you should be aware of equivalents and possible substitutes. These charts list off-the-shelf enclosures, cases and chassis boxes in various material combinations, colors and sizes.

These charts list cases and cabinets not covered in the June and October 1978 issues of *Radio-Electronics*. While every effort has been made to ensure that these charts are as complete as possible, it is not always possible to include all the options and ordering information. It is, therefore, a good idea to obtain catalogs from the manufacturers.



INSTRUMENT CASES

Internal side walls are grooved to position and hold PC boards. Both base and two side panels are removable for easy access to contents.

Length	Height	Depth	Mfr.	Model No.	Case Material	Comments	Options	Color
1.21	1.21	1.6	Vector	W-16-12-12B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
1.51	1.51	2.0	Vector	W20-15-15B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
2.31	3.81	1.0	Vector	W10-23-38B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors

chart continued on following page

INSTRUMENT CASES

Length	Height	Depth	Mfr.	Model No.	Case Material	Comments	Options	Color
2.85	2.11	4.5	Vector	W45-28-21B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
2.85	4.61	1.6	Vector	W16-28-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
2.85	4.61	2.0	Vector	W20-28-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
3.10	2.11	1.6	Vector	W16-31-21B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
3.10	3.10	1.6	Vector	W16-31-31B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base; bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
3.10	3.10	2.0	Vector	W20-31-31B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base; bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
3.10	4.17	2.0	Vector	W20-42-31B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
4.61	2.11	4.5	Vector	W45-46-21B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
4.61	3.10	2.0	Vector	W20-46-31B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base; bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
4.61	3.61	2.0	Vector	W20-46-36B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
4.61	4.62	3.0	Vector	W30-46-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base; bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
4.61	6.17	2.0	Vector	W20-46-62B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
4.61	6.61	2.0	Vector	W20-46-66B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base; bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
6.61	3.61	2.0	Vector	W20-66-36B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
6.61	4.61	2.0	Vector	W20-66-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base, slide panels, bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
6.61	4.61	3.0	Vector	W30-66-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base; slide panels, bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
6.61	4.61	4.5	Vector	W45-66-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base; slide panels, bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
8.61	4.61	3.0	Vector	W30-86-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base; slide panels, bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
8.61	4.61	4.5	Vector	W45-86-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base; slide panels, bezels	consult mfr for latest colors
10	4.61	3.0	Vector	W30-100-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
10	4.61	4.5	Vector	W45-100-46B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
10	6.61	3.0	Vector	W30-100-66B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
10	6.61	4.5	Vector	W45-100-66B	Al	holds 1/16" p.c. cards	inner panels, base	consult mfr for latest colors
13	7	8	Bud	MD-1960	Steel	removable side & top	1963 for slope front	grey or blue

chart continued on following page

INSTRUMENT CASES

Length	Height	Depth	Mfr.	Model No.	Case Material	Comments	Options	Color
14	8	9	Bud	MD-1961	Steel	removable side & top	1964 for slope front	grey or blue
16	8	9	Bud	MD-1962	Steel	removable side & top	1965 for slope front	grey or blue



PORTABLE INSTRUMENT CASES

Modern design with handles and tilt stands available. Some are even adaptable to rack mounting.

Length	Height	Depth	Mfr.	Model No.	Case Material	Comments	Options	Color
5-7/10	3-1/2	13	Buckeye	3501	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	grey with suede-like finish consult mfr for color
5-7/10	5-1/4	13	Buckeye	5251	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
5-7/10	7	13	Buckeye	7001	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
5-7/10	8	13	Buckeye	8001	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
5-7/10	8-3/4	13	Buckeye	8751	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
5-7/10	10-1/2	13	Buckeye	1051	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
8-1/2	3-1/2	13	Buckeye	3502	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	Stock and custom colors. Consult manufacturer
8-1/2	5-1/4	13	Buckeye	5252	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
8-1/2	7	13	Buckeye	7002	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
8-1/2	8	13	Buckeye	8002	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
8-1/2	8-3/4	13	Buckeye	8752	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
8-1/2	10-1/2	13	Buckeye	1052	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand rack adapter	
8-1/2	2-7/16	9-1/4	La France	CH 200	ABS	detented tilt/carry handle	without handle	
8-1/2	2-11/16	9-1/4	La France	CH 225	ABS		without handle	
8-1/2	2-15/16	9-1/4	La France	CH 250	ABS		without handle	
8-1/2	3-3/16	9-1/4	La France	CH 275	ABS		without handle	
8-1/2	3-7/16	9-1/4	La France	CH 300	ABS		without handle	
8-1/2	3-11/16	9-1/4	La France	CH 325	ABS		without handle	
8-1/2	4-7/16	9-1/4	La France	CHS 400	ABS		without handle	
8-1/2	5-7/16	9-1/4	La France	CHS 500	ABS		without handle	
8-1/2	6-7/16	9-1/4	La France	CHS 600	ABS		without handle	

chart continued on following page

PORTABLE INSTRUMENT CASES

Length	Height	Depth	Mfr.	Model No.	Case Material	Comments	Options	Color
9-1/2	3-1/2	13	Premier	TIC-030913	Al/vinyl	top carrying handle		
9-1/2	5-1/4	13	Premier	TIC-050913	Al/vinyl	top carrying handle		
9-1/2	7	13	Premier	TIC-070913	Al/vinyl	top carrying handle		
9-1/2	8-3/4	13	Premier	TIC-080913	Al/vinyl	top carrying handle		
9-1/2	10-1/2	13	Premier	TIC-100913	Al/vinyl	top carrying handle		
9-1/2	12-1/4	13	Premier	TIC-120913	Al/vinyl	top carrying handle	tilt stand; rack adapters; PC card cages	
9-1/2	14	13	Premier	TIC-140913	Al/vinyl	top carrying handle		13 stock colors available. Consult manufacturer
9-1/2	3-1/2	17	Premier	TIC-030917	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips		
9-1/2	5-1/4	17	Premier	TIC-050917	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips		
9-1/2	7	17	Premier	TIC-070917	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips		
9-1/2	8-3/4	17	Premier	TIC-080917	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips		
9-1/2	10-1/2	17	Premier	TIC-10017	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips		
9-1/2	12-1/4	17	Premier	TIC-120917	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips		
9-1/2	14	17	Premier	TIC-14017	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips		
11-1/3	3-1/2	13	Buckeye	3503	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand; rack adapter	
11-1/3	5-1/4	13	Buckeye	5253	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand; rack adapter	
11-1/3	7	13	Buckeye	7003	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand; rack adapter	
11-1/3	8	13	Buckeye	8003	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand; rack adapter	
11-1/3	8-3/4	13	Buckeye	8753	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand; rack adapter	
11-1/3	10-1/2	13	Buckeye	10603	Al	concealed fasteners	tilt stand; rack adapter	grey with suede-like finish. Consult mfr. for stock colors
12-1/2	6-3/4	11-5/8	La France	CLS 625	ABS		tilt stand	
12-1/2	7-3/4	11-5/8	La France	CLS 725	ABS		tilt stand	
12-1/2	8-3/4	11-5/8	La France	CLS 825	ABS		tilt stand	Stock and custom color. Consult manufacturer
15-5/8	3-1/2	13	Premier	TIC-031513	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips	tilt stand; PC card cages	
15-5/8	5-1/4	13	Premier	TIC-051513	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips	tilt stand; PC card cages	
15-5/8	7	13	Premier	TIC-071513	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips	tilt stand; PC card cages	
15-5/8	8-3/4	13	Premier	TIC-081513	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips	tilt stand; PC card cages	
15-5/8	10-1/2	13	Premier	TIC-101513	Al/vinyl	side carry handgrips	tilt stand; PC card cages	

WITH SO MANY FINE DIGITAL CIRCUITS BEING presented in electronic hobbyist magazines, one is tempted to construct them at the earliest possible opportunity. These articles generally present the projects using one of two construction techniques—either using a printed-circuit type of construction, or wire-wrap techniques. Little needs to be said about the PC board type of project construction, since usually a complete PC layout is provided with the article that can be copied using many different techniques to reproduce the circuit (or sometimes a PC layout may even be offered by a manufacturer at a bargain price).

This article discusses the wire-wrap technique and presents several ways to cut down on the time-consuming job of wire-wrapping each and every individual terminal point. The technique is useful for digital and computer-circuit applications, and hams and CB enthusiasts will also find it useful.

Combining wire-wrap with a printed circuit can be the answer to many layout and construction problems connected with many projects. Here are some hints in using this technique.

PC/Wire-Wrap-

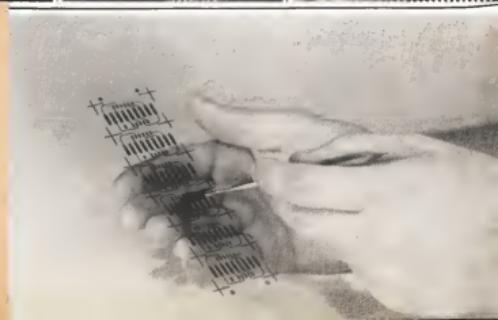
New Construction Technique

JAMES E. TEMPLE

Wire-wrap tools

First, let's discuss the various tools and wire-wrap terminals that are currently available to the hobbyist. An example is the wire-wrap tool manufactured by the OK Machine & Tool Corp. The cost of this tool is nominal for what it will do; i.e., wire-wrap a measured and stripped length of wire between two terminals. It does the job quickly (after the wire is prepared) and is an excellent addition to your electronic tool kit. Not only does it wrap the wire, it is also designed to unwrap it, which adds up to a good design in a single tool.

Now, here's what I consider to be a versatile wire-wrap tool—the Vector *Slit-N-Wrap*. Here, an ingenious design makes wire-wrapping a simple job. No need to measure the wire length between terminals that will be wire-wrapped together to form the circuit path. This single tool allows you to slip the tool (the wire is contained on a spool in the tool's



handle) over the terminal, wrap the wire seven turns or more and then directly run the wire to the next terminal to be wrapped, again slipping the tool over the end of that terminal and wrapping seven times around the post. If the particular circuit path must be wired to more than two terminal posts, then this tool allows you to continue wrapping to the next post without having to measure a new wire length. Just continue to wrap all the terminals that must be connected to this particular circuit path. When the last terminal in the series to be wire-wrapped is finished, just cut the wire and proceed to the next circuit path. It is just that simple with the Vector Slit-N-Wrap tool, and a great time-saver.

One of the nicest things that Vector has done is to support the needs of those who must use wire-wrap for their circuits. Vector has a complete line of wire-wrap posts and the tools to insert them in the epoxy boards.

Sockets

There are also IC wire-wrap sockets that are usually available with three levels of wrapping space. Many companies offer these sockets; and, of course, the choice of terminal pins or sockets is up to you. However, Robinson-Nugent, Inc., has an extensive line of different types of sockets, terminals and pins. One of the most handy types of sockets is the wire-wrap strip socket (model WB-25-55-G), which comes in a 25-pin-length IC connector. These sockets are easily cut to the pin length you need, are easily cemented to

the board for mounting and are flexible if changes are required. If you have an oddball type of IC (let's say, 22-pins, 30-pins, etc.) and you just cannot find the right wire-wrap socket for it, then these strip sockets can come to the rescue. Simply cut the strip to size and form the IC socket from it.

Another excellent product manufactured by Robinson Nugent is their low-profile, wire-wrappable J-pin designed for IC DIP packages. These pins offer an extreme low profile to the circuit board; sockets can be made from them directly; they are space-savers; and are wire-wrapped to the underside of the J-pin.

Avoiding the jungle

Up to now we have discussed the tools, terminals and many other products of interest by manufacturers that support the wire-wrap construction technique. Now let's get to the heart of the article—how to avoid the jungle and mass of wires when you wire-wrap. If you are like many hobbyists who have used the technique and have completed several wire-wrap projects, you will know what I mean by a jungle. The back of a finished wire-wrap board contains hundreds of inches of wire, and many wires cross each other, along with various colors you may have used to color-code the wires. If a change is made, you must be very careful to cut or unwrap the correct wires, and if several levels of wire-wrap exist on any single terminal, extra care is needed to make these changes.

There are ways to cut down on the

number of wire-wrap connections you have to make. You can combine a printed-circuit board with wire-wrap terminals. The number of connections can be reduced by using a combination of similar lines, wire-wrap sockets, and just plain common sense and planning. For example, when a construction project calls for similar pinouts to be connected, as in the case of a computer memory board, print the redundant connections to the IC sockets right on a PC board. Then just solder in the similar terminals to be connected, either to the upper side or the lower side of the PC board.

As for other electronic circuits, review your project and look for similar pinouts of the IC; for instance, the power connections, the clock inputs, or a group of IC's that are of the same type. All that you need do is plan a PC card (double-sided copper), layout the IC on the board, use an etchant pen or lacquer etchant to draw the connecting lines that are redundant in nature (after drilling the holes into the PC board, of course), and eliminate as many wire-wrap connections as possible in the design. Be sure to provide for the terminal pins that act as connectors between the foils on the top of the board to the foils on the bottom of the board. Once the design has eliminated as many wire-wrap lines as possible, etch the board, clean it, insert the sockets or J-pins, and finish wrapping the circuit paths you could not combine onto the PC card. With the right design and careful preparation, the PC lines will eliminate as much as one-half or more of the wire-

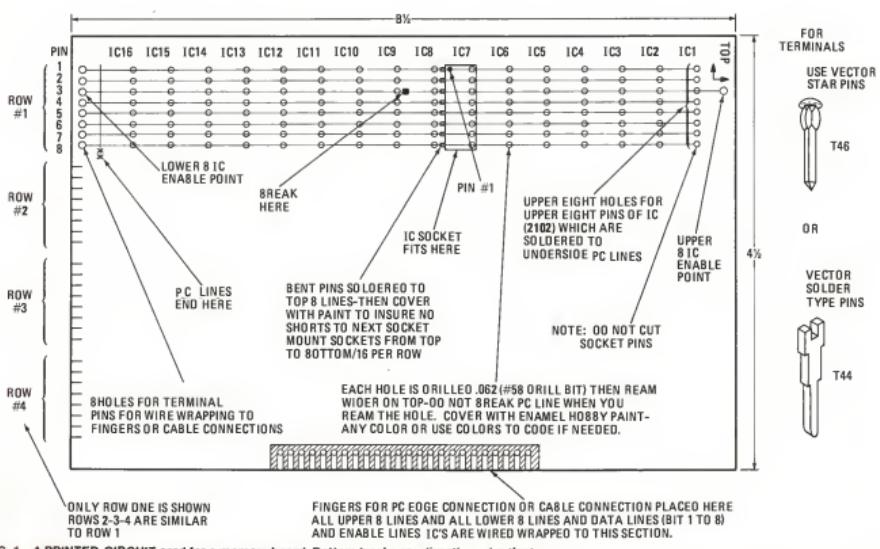


FIG. 1—A PRINTED-CIRCUIT card for a memory board. Bottom tracks are directly under the top ones. The trick here is to solder pins on one side of each socket directly to the upper tracks.

wrap lines. Rather than having a jungle of wires, you will have an orderly system that is easy to change or add to. It works!

How to design a PC board

Let's take a particular type of IC package and design a PC card and plan the wire-wrap terminals. (See Fig. 1.) I can best show how to eliminate redundant lines by using the popular 2102 memory IC. I have constructed a memory card, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by 7 inches long, containing over 64 IC's. Consider this: Eight 2102's provide a memory word that is 8 bits wide. This means eight 2102's will provide 1024 8-bit memory locations. Each 2102 has 16 pins, eight on each side. Of the 16 pins, 10 are used for the memory address, one for read/write control, and one for chip-enable. Of the four remaining pins, one is used for the positive power-supply connection and one for the ground or return connection. All these pins are paralleled together between the eight 2102's. Only the data-in pin and the data-out pins will be considered as separate lines or wire-wrap connections. Of course, if several 8-bit-wide memory banks are being considered, these same pins will be paralleled to the same pins within the other memory banks.

Let's take a look at how we can eliminate some wire-wrap connections so that there are only a few. This will enable you to get a large number of IC packages in a very tight space.

Figure 1 shows the layout of the double-sided PC board. Two memory banks are shown. Each bank contains 1024 8-bit words. One bank consists of IC1—IC8, the upper lines of the PC layout and the terminal pins for wire-wrap. The other consists of IC9—IC16. The eight foil traces on the foil side of the board parallel eight traces on the component side and are, therefore, not visible in Fig. 1.

Note from the layout for the 64 IC's (8K of memory, 2102 type) that only 32 holes are drilled for each 1K of memory. These holes are for the upper eight pins (one side) of the DIP wire-wrap socket.

Bend eight socket terminals (only one side of the DIP) at a right angle to the socket (see Fig. 2), cut the leads short and insert the other eight socket pins through the holes to be soldered to the lower PC traces. The right-angle pins are soldered to the upper PC traces. Thus, there are eight parallel foil traces on the upper and lower side of the PC card that are isolated by the thickness of the epoxy board itself.

To make sure the eight socket pins that are pushed through the board do not make contact with the upper eight parallel foil traces, it is best to take an *Xacto* knife with a No. 17 blade and ream the holes from the top of the PC board (see Fig. 3). To further insure isolation, use enamel paint to cover the holes on the top side. Now, when the sockets are pushed

into place, the top right-angle pins and the lower terminal pins are soldered, and the lower eight pins and the upper eight pins are electrically isolated from each other. This type of setup requires that when you insert the sockets, you start

IC SOCKET-STANDARD 16 PIN

NOTE: ROBINSON NUGENT STRIP SOCKETS CAN BE ALSO USED

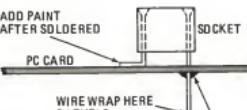
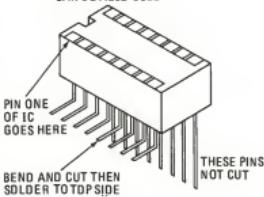
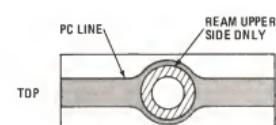
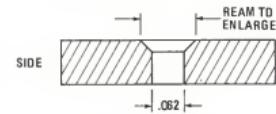


FIG. 2—HOW SOCKETS ARE MODIFIED when you are using the combined printed-circuit and wire-wrap techniques.



NOTE: UPPER AND LOWER LINES ARE IN LINE. LOWER ARE NOT SHOWN.



CROSS SECTION OF EACH HOLE

FIG. 3—ISOLATING THE PINS THAT go through the board to the bottom traces is simple. You can use an *Xacto* knife as a reamer.

from the uppermost top socket (IC1) and solder the connections. Then, to protect against possible shorts, paint over the top soldered pins with the enamel. Now, the next row of IC sockets can be soldered in place until all sockets are mounted to the PC board.

When you design the PC layout, bring the eight foil traces on the component side to a stopping point beyond the foil traces on the bottom of the board. On the component side, also extend the IC enable trace at the opposite end of the board and break the trace between IC8 and IC9 (this isolates the two memory banks).

Now (for the traces on the component side only) drill eight holes into the extended portion of the traces, insert eight terminal pins and solder the pins. For the eight foil traces on the bottom side of the board, cut the socket terminals short right up to the solder connection, all except for the top row of terminals. This row of terminals is now used for wire-wrap connections to the traces on the bottom side of the board. Make sure not to cut the data-in or data-out pins on the sockets since these pins will be paralleled to the other data-in and data-out pins and finally wire-wrapped to the input for the cable connections to the card.

On the component side of the card, you can use PC lines to make edge-connector fingers, the type of fingers or number of lines will depend upon the type of bus to which the card will be connected. Or, you can make a provision for wiring in a cable to connect to the bus lines. (Wires should be soldered in, and you can use the wire-wrap pins that allow wire-wrapping to the lower side of the wire cable.) Finally, for the fingers or the wire cable, insert the wire-wrap terminal pins, solder them firmly to the card, and finish the PC board by wire-wrapping the connections to the appropriate pinouts for the particular bus structure.

What you have just constructed is a compact tri-level PC board. Redundant or similar lines have been connected by foil traces, soldered to the sockets (modified for solder connections to the PC board), and all that remains is to wire-wrap the end terminal pins of each row of IC's. The few wire-wrap wires you have used can be taped to the card to secure them; changes made to the circuit are easier as each line is accessible, both top and bottom. With an $8\frac{1}{2}$ - by $4\frac{1}{4}$ -inch card, there is no reason why 64 DIP IC's cannot be located on it. It is possible that on a 9- by 16-inch-wide card you can cram in four times the number of IC's, and in terms of memory for computers, provide a 32K board. What we have not provided for on this type of memory board is bank-select in 1K increments, nor did we buffer the memory address lines or buffer the data lines. However, this problem is easily overcome by a second memory control and select card of appropriate design.

What we have demonstrated are the principles of combining the best of two worlds in project construction; that is, using PC layouts (to eliminate many redundant lines to the various IC's) and using wire-wrap sockets modified to the card for solder and wire-wrap connections. Using this technique you can fit a great many IC's in a highly crowded space, and wire-wrapping the final connections is made simple. Less than one-half of the wire-wrap connections will be required by this type of construction, yet all lines are accessible if changes or additions to the circuit are required.

New IHF Amplifier Specifications

Amplifier comparisons made more realistic for the layman by a new IHF testing standard that provides a closer correlation between what he hears and what the lab technician measures.

LEN FELDMAN
CONTRIBUTING HI-FI EDITOR

AFTER NEARLY THREE YEARS OF DELIBERATIONS, the Institute of High Fidelity (IHF) has published and approved a new standard entitled "Methods of Measurement for Audio Amplifiers." This standard (IHF-A-202, 1978) supersedes an earlier IHF standard that had been used since 1966 but rendered obsolete in 1974 when the Federal Trade Commission ruled that the continuous power rating of an audio amplifier intended for home entertainment had to be specified in a somewhat different manner than had been done using the old standard.

One of the major new measurements incorporated in the new standard is dynamic headroom. This measurement was designed to help consumers select one of two amplifiers having the same *continuous* power-output ratings but achieving significantly different loudness levels when fed with the same short-term dynamic musical signals.

An amplifier having a very "stiff" power supply may produce very little more output power than its rated continuous power level under such conditions, whereas an amplifier with a "soft" or less-regulated supply may, under the same conditions, deliver power greater than its continuous rated level. The dynamic headroom dB specification may therefore vary from 0 (for the stiffly regulated power-supply amplifier) to +3.0, or even more.

Now that the new standard has become officially recognized by the IHF, let's look at some of the other new measurement methods it describes. The new standard attempts to correlate more accurately what the consumer *hears* when listening to an amplifier and what the technician *measures* for that amplifier during

lab tests. Equally important, the new standard insures that *all* manufacturers that publish amplifier or preamplifier specs make all measurements in identical fashion and report their findings uniformly so that prospective purchasers are not comparing "apples and oranges" when looking at competing products.

Since *Radio-Electronics* publishes complete high-fidelity test reports on audio amplifiers and preamplifiers, in future reports, we will adopt the new measurement techniques described in the standard. While to detail every one of the new measurements is beyond the scope of this article, we'll try to explain those major changes in measurement techniques that will affect the test reports. Those interested in obtaining the complete standard may do so by sending a check or money order to The Institute of High Fidelity, 489 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017, in the amount of \$7.50. Ask for Standard IHF-A-202, 1978.

New reference levels

One of the most confusing factors

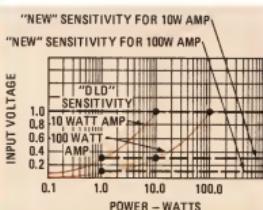


FIG. 1—NEW IHF SENSITIVITY rating specifies the input voltage required to produce a 1-watt output.

found in published amplifier specifications has been the lack of uniformity in the reference levels used to make sensitivity and signal-to-noise ratio measurements. For instance, let's consider two

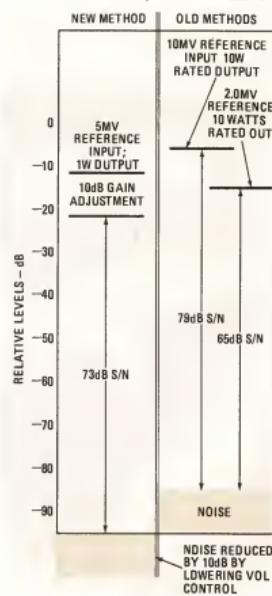


FIG. 2—NEW IHF S/N RATIO STANDARD specifies reference input level and output level. The volume control is adjusted to obtain the specified 1-watt output level. The old standard required S/N to be measured at full-rated output.

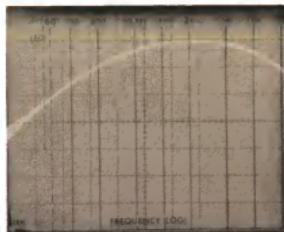


FIG. 3—RESPONSE of A-weighting network used in hum measurements.

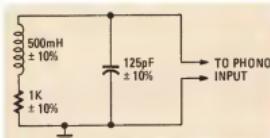


FIG. 4—NETWORK approximates the impedance of a magnetic phono cartridge. To comply with new IHF standard, network must be connected to phono preamp for S/N measurements.

audio amplifiers, one with a 10-watt power-output rating and the other with a 100-watt-per-channel rating. An amplifier's input sensitivity has traditionally been measured so as to describe how much input-signal amplitude is required for the given amplifier to deliver its *rated output* (with the volume control turned all the way up to maximum). Suppose each of the two amplifiers in our example requires an input signal of 1.0 volt to deliver its rated output. This implies that both amplifiers have "equal sensitivity." Yet, if 1 volt is fed into the 100-watt-per-channel amplifier, it will sound 10-dB louder than if it were fed to the 10-watt-per-channel amplifier! It is therefore clear that the *gain* of the two amplifiers is not identical.

In the new standard, amplifier sensitivity is still measured with the volume control turned up fully, but now it is specified as the voltage required to produce *1.0 watt* at the speaker-output terminals (or 0.5 volts in the case of a separate preamplifier), regardless of the full power (or voltage output) rating. Using that reference output level in the two examples, the input sensitivity of the 10-watt amplifier is now 0.316 volt (for a 1-watt output), while the input sensitivity of the 100-watt-per-channel amplifier is 0.1 volt (for a 1-watt output). These concepts are shown in Fig. 1, in which power output for the two amplifiers is plotted against input voltage.

S/N reference levels

Even more confusing were previous

methods of measuring signal-to-noise (S/N) ratios.

Again, let's look at two hypothetical amplifiers. One integrated amplifier has a phono-input sensitivity of 2.0 mV (i.e., 2.0 mV applied to the phono-input terminals at 1 kHz drives the amplifier to its full rated output if the volume control is turned up all the way). Let's assume that the S/N measurement (when the signal is removed and the input jacks are shorted) is 65 dB.

Another amplifier manufacturer, whose phono preamplifier is just as noisy as the first, decides that a 65-dB value does not look "good enough" in print. So, he chooses an input reference level of 10 mV. But, of course, when 10 mV are applied to this amplifier, the amplifier will overload (since it, too, would produce full rated output from a 2.0-mV signal with the volume control turned up fully).

Therefore, the manufacturer *lowers* the volume-control setting until rated power output is obtained once more. And he would have to lower it by approximately 14 dB! Assuming that the residual noise is a function only of the phono preamplifier, the manufacturer now reads a S/N ratio of 79 dB, even though the preamp section in his unit is no less noisy than that of his competitor!

In order to establish uniform S/N readings, the new standard dictates that the input-signal level be fixed at 5.0 mV for a magnetic phono section, and at 0.5 volt for a high-level input such as the tuner, auxiliary, or tape input on a preamplifier or integrated amplifier. In addition, the *output* reference level must be adjusted (as in the case of sensitivity measurements) to a 1.0-watt level (for a power amplifier) or 0.5 volt (for a preamplifier). This adjustment is made by using

PRIMARY SPECS FOR POWER AMPLIFIERS:

1. Continuous Average Power Output
2. Dynamic Headroom
3. Frequency Response
4. Sensitivity
5. A-Weighted Signal-To-Noise Ratio

PRIMARY SPECS FOR PREAMPLIFIERS:

1. Frequency Response
2. Maximum Voltage Output
3. Total Harmonic Distortion
4. Sensitivity
5. A-Weighted Signal-To-Noise Ratio
6. Maximum Input Signal
7. Input Impedance

PRIMARY SPECS FOR INTEGRATED AMPLIFIERS:

1. Continuous Average Power Output
2. Dynamic Headroom
3. Frequency Response
4. Sensitivity
5. A-Weighted Signal-To-Noise Ratio
6. Maximum Input Signal
7. Input Impedance

TABLE 1—PRIMARY SPECS that must be provided by manufacturer to comply with new IHF standards.

1. Clipping Headroom
2. Output Impedance
3. Wideband Damping Factor
4. Low-Frequency Damping Factor
5. CCIR/ARM Signal-To-Noise Ratio
6. Tone-Control Response
7. Filter Cutoff Frequency
8. Filter Slope
9. Crosstalk
10. A-Weighted Crosstalk
11. CCIR/ARM Crosstalk
12. SMPTE Intermodulation Distortion
13. IHF Intermodulation Distortion
14. Transient-Overload Recovery Time
15. Slew Factor
16. Reactive Load
17. Capacitive Load
18. Separation
19. Difference of Frequency Response
20. Gain-Tracking Error
21. Tone-Control Tracking Error

TABLE 2—SECONDARY SPECS that may be provided at manufacturer's discretion.

TABLE 3
RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT

Manufacturer:	Model:
AMPLIFIER PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS	
	R-E Measurement
	R-E Evaluation
POWER OUTPUT CAPABILITY	
RMS power/channel, 8-ohms, 1 kHz (watts)	
RMS power/channel, 8-ohms, 20 Hz (watts)	
RMS power/channel, 8-ohms, 20 kHz (watts)	
RMS power/channel, 4-ohms, 1 kHz (watts)	
RMS power/channel, 4-ohms, 20 Hz (watts)	
RMS power/channel, 4-ohms, 20 kHz (watts)	
Frequency limits for rated output (Hz-kHz)	
Dynmic headroom (dB)	
DISTORTION MEASUREMENTS	
Harmonic distortion at rated output, 1 kHz (%)	
Intermodulation distortion, rated output (%)	
Harmonic distortion at 1-watt output, 1 kHz (%)	
Intermodulation distortion at 1-watt output (%)	
DAMPING FACTOR AT 8 OHMS, 50 Hz	
PHONO PREAMPLIFIER MEASUREMENTS	
Frequency response (Hz-kHz, ± dB)	
Maximum input before overload (mV)	
Hum/noise, "A"-weighted, referenced to 1W or 0.5V output, for 5-mV Input (dB)	
HIGH-LEVEL INPUT MEASUREMENTS	
Frequency response (Hz-kHz, ± dB)	
Hum/noise, "A"-wt'd, re 0.5 or 1W out, 0.5V in (dB)	
Residual noise, "A"-wt'd, minimum volume, re 1W out (dB)	
TONAL COMPENSATION MEASUREMENTS	
Action of bass and treble controls	See Fig.
Action of secondary tone controls	See Fig.
Action of high- and low-frequency filters	See Fig.
COMPONENT MATCHING MEASUREMENTS	
Input sensitivity, PH-1/PH-2, re 1W or 0.5V out (mV)	
Input sensitivity, high-level, re 1W or 0.5V out (mV)	
Output level, tape outputs, at rated output (mV)	
Output level, headphone jack, at rated output (mV or mW)	
EVALUATION OF CONTROLS, CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN	
Adequacy of program source and monitor switching	
Adequacy of input facilities	
Front panel layout	
Action of controls and switches	
Design and construction	
Ease of servicing	
OVERALL AMPLIFIER PERFORMANCE RATING	

the master volume control. This makes a lot of sense since it places the master volume control at a setting that approximates that which a consumer would normally use in actual music listening. No one ever listens to a hi-fi stereo system with the volume control turned up fully (in most cases, this would overdrive the amplifier or preamplifier into severe clipping, since amplifier gain has nothing to do with maximum amplifier power or voltage output).

Figure 2 shows the old and the new methods of measuring signal-to-noise; it is assumed that other amplifier stages do not affect overall noise. Actually, we have already discovered that very often you cannot compute new S/N values from the old values (even taking into account new reference input and output levels) since, as the new input and output reference levels are set up (by the volume control and by varying signal-level inputs), other noise-producing stages affect the measurement. Thus, it is next to impossible to convert from the old measurement meth-

od to the new by simply juggling dB and gain figures.

A-weighting

In the past, some manufacturers used a weighting network in signal-to-noise measurements while others did not. A weighting network recognizes the fact that the human hearing system does not respond equally to all audible frequencies, especially at low listening levels. Our ears are less sensitive to low frequency or hum than to mid-frequencies, and are also less sensitive to ultra-high frequencies. In the past some manufacturers used an A-weighting network to take into account the subjective aspects of residual noise. This network has a frequency-response characteristic that is shown in Fig. 3, in which you will note that much less importance is given to 60-Hz noise (about 20-dB less) than to noise at, say, 1 kHz. Similarly, noise at 10 kHz is given approximately 5-dB less importance than noise at mid-frequencies.

The new standard is in conformance

with those manufacturers who have used an A-weighting network in making S/N measurements, and requires that type of network to be inserted between the output of the amplifier and the meter used to measure the noise voltage or residual noise.

Most manufacturers have traditionally measured phono signal-to-noise ratios by inserting a shorting plug in the phono-input jacks. In the case of many phono-preamplifier circuits, this test method does not reflect what actually happens when you connect a magnetic cartridge to those same phono inputs. A magnetic cartridge has a certain amount of DC resistance, plus a finite amount of inductance. Instead of inserting a shorting plug, the new standard requires using a network that approximates the complex impedance "observed" by the phono inputs when a cartridge is actually connected; a diagram of this network is shown in Fig. 4.

For making S/N measurements of the high-level inputs on an amplifier or preamplifier, a 1000-ohm resistor will be used to terminate the input jacks.

Primary amp/preamp ratings

To rate amplifiers according to the new IHF standards, the manufacturer must list certain primary ratings in order of their importance. For a basic power amplifier, five basic ratings must be shown; while for an integrated amplifier or a preamplifier, seven primary ratings must be given. Table 1 lists the primary ratings in each case.

At least 21 other secondary ratings and how to measure them are included in the IHF standards, and can be listed (in part or in whole) by the manufacturer at his own discretion. Table 2 shows these secondary ratings.

Future test reports

It has been Radio-Electronics' practice to publish tabular listings of measured results on amplifiers, receivers and preamplifiers in its high-fidelity test reports. Table 3 shows the form that will be used in future test reports. The italicized items in this table represent either new specs not previously reported on, or those that have been reported on using earlier techniques and that will now be measured in accordance with the new standards. Since it will probably take some time before all manufacturers begin to use the standards, it may be somewhat difficult to compare their published specifications with those measured according to the new standard. For example, signal-to-noise ratios may seem poorer or lower than those specified using older methods.

In time, however, it is hoped that most serious high-fidelity manufacturers will adopt the new measurement techniques and ratings; this will make it much easier for an audio consumer to select good hi-fi amplification equipment. R-E

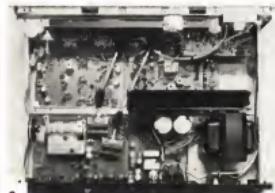
R.E.A.L.

Radio-Electronics Audio Lab Tests



CIRCLE 130 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

THE PUBLISHED SPECIFICATIONS FOR YAMAHA'S relatively low-powered model CR-420 receiver contain one term you may not have seen before. This is the NDCR specification (Noise Distortion Clearance Range). Yamaha (6600 Orangehorpe Avenue, Buena Park, CA 90622) developed this specification in the belief that it tells more exactly what you can expect from the product in terms of combined noise and distortion during actual use. When you read this claim, you'll note that, with the volume control turned down 20-dB below its maximum (typical of normal use), the model CR-420 receiver produces no more than 0.1%



2

MANUFACTURER'S PUBLISHED SPECIFICATIONS:

FM TUNER:

Usable Sensitivity (mono): $1.8 \mu\text{V}$ (10.3 dBf). **50-dB Quieting:** mono; $3.5 \mu\text{V}$ (16.1 dBf); stereo, $43.5 \mu\text{V}$ (38 dBf). **S/N Ratio:** mono, 77 dB; stereo, 71 dB. **Capture Ratio:** 1.0 dB. **Selectivity:** 65 dB. **Image Rejection:** 50 dB. **AM Suppression:** 56 dB. **IF and Spurious Rejection:** 75 dB. **Harmonic Distortion:** mono, 0.15% at 100 Hz and 1 kHz, 0.3% at 6 kHz; stereo, 0.25% at 100 Hz and 1 kHz, 0.8% at 6 kHz. **Stereo Separation:** 40 dB at 1 kHz, 30 dB at 50 Hz and 10 kHz. **Frequency Response:** 30 Hz to 15 kHz, +1.0, -3.0 dB. **Muting Threshold:** 5.0 μV (19.2 dBf).

AM Tuner:

IHF Sensitivity: 18 μV per meter. **Selectivity:** 20 dB. **S/N Ratio:** 50 dB. **IF and Image Rejection:** 40 dB. **Harmonic Distortion:** 0.6%.

Amplifier:

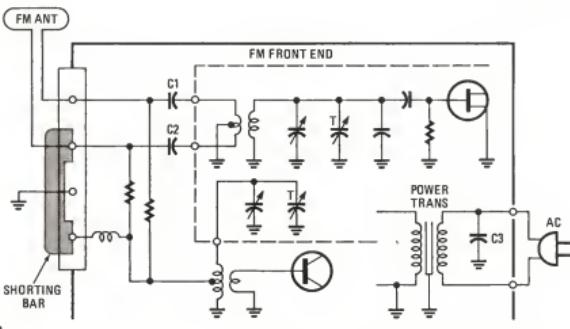
Power Output: 22 watts-per-channel, 8 ohms, 20 Hz to 20 kHz. **Harmonic Distortion:** 0.05%. **IM Distortion:** 0.05%. **Damping Factor:** 40. **Input Sensitivity:** phono, 2.0 mV; high level, 120 mV. **Frequency Response:** phono, RIAA ± 0.5 dB; high level, 20 Hz to 20 kHz, ± 1.5 dB. **S/N Ratio:** phono, 91 dB (referenced to a 10-mV input); high level, 97 dB. **Noise Distortion Clearance Range:** for 0.1% THD, 20 Hz to 20 kHz with volume control at -20 dB; phono to speakers, from 100 mW to 22 watts. **Bass Range:** ± 12 dB at 50 Hz. **Treble Range:** ± 11 dB at 20 kHz. **High Filter Cutoff:** 6 dB-per-octave above 10 kHz. **Low Filter Cutoff (built-in):** 12 dB-per-octave below 10 Hz.

General Specifications:

Power Consumption: 130 watts, 120 volts 60 Hz. **Dimensions:** $17\frac{3}{4}\text{W} \times 6\frac{3}{4}\text{H} \times 12\frac{1}{2}\text{D}$ inches. **Weight:** 19 lb. **Suggested Retail Price:** \$280.

Yamaha CR-420 AM/FM Receiver

LEN FELDMAN
CONTRIBUTING HI-FI EDITOR



combined noise and distortion at any listening level from 100 mW to the full rated output of 22 watts-per-channel. While it can be argued that distortion at a -60-dB level (compared with output level) is far less annoying than

noise at that same level, this extra specification gives you some idea of what you can expect in the way of dynamic range.

The NDCR specification is only one of several innovative features associated with this low-cost receiver. The front panel of the model CR-420 is shown in Fig. 1. To the left of the long and narrow dial calibration area is a single tuning meter that serves as a signal strength meter in the AM mode and as a center-of-channel tuning meter for the FM mode, with FM frequencies calibrated at every half-MHz. Three tiny LED indicators to the right of the scales inform you whether you are listening to AM, FM, or stereo FM. Step-type BASS and TREBLE controls are located just below the tuning meter, and next to them is an independent loudness control. This control is used to change listening levels after the main volume control has been adjusted to realistic listening levels, depending upon the program source selected. The control covers a range (downward in level) of around 20 dB, and as it is rotated away from the flat or maximum clockwise position, this introduces just the right amount of loudness compensation. This arrangement works far better than the usual combination volume/loudness-control-plus-switch found on many competitive receivers.

Recording-output and program-source selector switches are also operated independently of each other. This makes it possible to feed one program to an associated tape deck while

TABLE 1
RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT

Manufacturer: Yamaha

Model: CR-420

FM PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

SENSITIVITY, NOISE AND FREEDOM

FROM INTERFERENCE

	R-E Measurement	R-E Evaluation
IHF sensitivity, mono: (μ V) (dBf)	1.7 (9.8)	Excellent
Sensitivity, stereo (μ V) (dBf)	8.0 (23.3)	Good
50-dB quieting signal, mono (μ V) (dBf)	2.5 (13.2)	Excellent
50-dB quieting signal, stereo (μ V) (dBf)	33.0 (35.6)	Very good
Maximum S/N ratio, mono (dB)	76	Excellent
Maximum S/N ratio, stereo (dB)	70	Excellent
Capture ratio (dB)	1.0	Excellent
AM suppression (dB)	58	Good
Image rejection (dB)	52	Fair
IF rejection (dB)	75	Good
Spurious rejection (dB)	78	Good
Alternate channel selectivity (dB)	65	Good

FIDELITY AND DISTORTION MEASUREMENTS

Frequency response, 50 Hz to 15 kHz (\pm dB)	0.3
Harmonic distortion, 1 kHz, mono (%)	0.06
Harmonic distortion, 1 kHz, stereo (%)	0.07
Harmonic distortion, 100 Hz, mono (%)	0.06
Harmonic distortion, 100 Hz, stereo (%)	0.075
Harmonic distortion, 6 kHz, mono (%)	0.12
Harmonic distortion, 6 kHz, stereo (%)	0.15
Distortion at 50-dB quieting, mono (%)	0.4
Distortion at 50-dB quieting, stereo (%)	0.35

STEREO PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

Stereo threshold (μ V)	8.0 (23.3)
Separation, 1 kHz (dB)	54
Separation, 100 Hz (dB)	45
Separation, 10 kHz (dB)	43

MISCELLANEOUS MEASUREMENTS

Muting threshold (μ V)	5.0 (19.2)
Dial calibration accuracy (\pm kHz at MHz)	50-overall

EVALUATION OF CONTROLS

CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN

Control layout	Excellent
Ease of tuning	Very good
Accuracy of meters or other tuning aids	Excellent
Usefulness of other controls	Excellent
Construction and internal layout	Very good
Ease of servicing	Excellent
Evaluation of extra features, if any	Very good

OVERALL FM PERFORMANCE RATING

reception, the FM antenna acts as a whip antenna because of the high impedance provided by capacitors C1 and C2 (see Fig. 3). Using capacitor C3 to bypass the power-transformer primary side, the ground side of the AM antenna coil is grounded via the power-line cord; this provides a whip antenna effect. To increase the antenna's sensitivity, the shorting bar shown in Fig. 3 bridges the terminals as shown. If overloading results, the bar can be removed.

The power-amplifier section of the model CR-420 is direct-coupled and consists of a differential amplifier stage with constant-current circuitry, a Class-A driver stage with two-stage thermal compensation, a Darlington pair full complementary single-ended push-pull DC-coupled output stage, and a power-consumption limiter-type protection circuit.

A speaker protection relay separates the amplifier and speakers when the power switch is turned on or whenever more than ± 2 volts DC is present at the speaker output terminals.

FM measurements

Table 1 summarizes measurements made for the FM tuner section. The results can be compared with the manufacturer's published specifications shown elsewhere in this report. Almost every performance specification was either equalled or exceeded, except for the monophonic and stereophonic signal-to-noise claims, which were nonetheless excellent. The 1-kHz distortion readings of 0.06% in mono and 0.07% in stereo are about as low as we have ever read, even when lab testing the very highest-priced separate tuners. Stereo FM separation of better than 50 dB at mid-frequencies and above 40 dB at 10 kHz is also unusual in receivers in any price or power category.

Figure 4 is a scope analysis of FM frequency response and separation. Note that FM de-

you listen to a completely different program source. Volume and balance controls are concentrically mounted, and next to them is the tuning knob.

The bottom of the panel contains a pushbutton power on-off switch; two phone jacks (for dual stereophonic headphone listening); speaker selector pushbuttons for choosing one or both pairs of speaker systems (which can be connected to the model CR-420); a high-cut filter switch; an AM/FM selector pushbutton; a mono/stereo mode selector; and an FM muting switch which, when pressed to OFF, also switches the FM reception into the monophonic mode, regardless of the incoming FM signal.

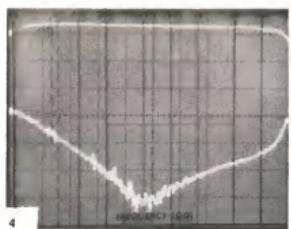
The rear panel of the model CR-420 contains terminals for 75-ohm, 300-ohm FM and external AM antennas. Nearby are the phono and auxiliary input jacks as well as the tape-out and tape-in jacks and a chassis ground terminal. Two rows of spring-loaded color-coded speaker terminals are next, followed by a pair of convenience AC receptacles (one switched, the other unswitched). A wide variety of additional components can be connected to the model CR-420 receiver.

Circuit highlights

An internal view of the chassis is shown in Fig. 2. The power-supply circuitry is well isolated from low-level and RF circuits, and the two major rotary switches are connected to

front-panel knobs via long coupling shafts and swivel joints. This design places the actual switches close to the circuits they must select.

The front-end section of the receiver uses a three-gang tuning capacitor and a junction FET for the RF amplifier stage. The IF section uses a four-element ceramic filter, a two-stage



direct-coupled amplifier and a three-stage differential amplifier with a current limiter. The FM demodulator is a wideband balanced-bridge ratio detector; and a phase-locked-loop IC is used for multiplex stereo decoding.

A special circuit allows the external FM antenna to serve for AM reception thus eliminating the need for a bar antenna. During AM

emphasis no longer plays a part in these measurements since in our lab we now use a signal processor ahead of our FM generator, which applies the required pre-emphasis to the swept modulating test signal to achieve a flat "net" response.

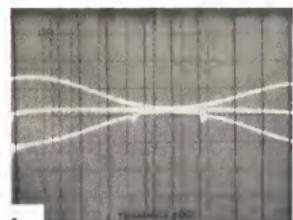
Figure 5 is a scope photo of AM response and, as is true of most stereo receivers providing AM reception, response began to fall off at around 3 kHz.

Amplifier measurements

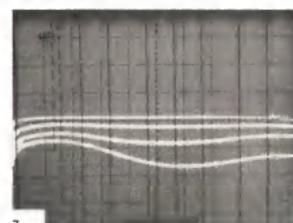
Table 2 contains a summary of all amplifier/preamplifier-control measurements made on the model CR-420. The performance of this section was consistent with that of the tuner. Power ratings are conservatively stated since we obtained an output of 34.0 watts-per-channel at mid-frequencies and 31 watts-per-channel at 20 kHz, as opposed to the 22-watt-per-

channel FTC power rating claimed. At an actual rated output of 22 watts-per-channel (at mid-frequencies), harmonic distortion was an extremely low 0.008% while IM distortion was almost equally low, with readings of only 0.009%. Distortion readings at the 1-watt level were largely distortion plus noise (with the noise component contributing more to the single-meter reading than the distortion), but they were well below Yamaha's 0.1% NDCR index figure and well below the rated 0.95% THD figure, even ignoring that noise was a contributing factor to the total reading.

The range of the BASS and TREBLE controls of the model CR-420 is shown in Fig. 6. Note that turnover frequencies are positioned lower (for the BASS) and higher (for the TREBLE) than is usual with simple feedback-type con-



6



7

trols. This design feature makes it possible to augment extreme bass or extreme treble that might be deficient.

Figure 7 shows the system response at various loudness control settings. When these measurements and sweep-frequency analyses were made, the volume control remained at a fixed setting and only the separate loudness control setting was altered. At mid-frequencies, this control provides up to 20 dB attenuation, but as can be seen from the progressively lower amplitude sweeps, compensation at the base end of the spectrum increases as the control setting is lowered.

Summary

Table 3 contains an overall product evaluation together with our positive conclusions regarding the model CR-420. Although in the past we have tested more costly Yamaha receivers and other components, this is our first experience with one of their lower-priced products. We have had an opportunity to use the receiver for better than two weeks, and it is easy to see why these receivers are well accepted. Yamaha has brought as much care and thoughtful engineering to "beginner" sets as to its sophisticated separate components. R-E

TABLE 2
RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT

Manufacturer: Yamaha

Model: CR-420

AMPLIFIER PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

	R-E Measurement	R-E Evaluation
POWER OUTPUT CAPABILITY		
RMS power/channel, 8-ohms, 1 kHz (watts)	34.0	Excellent
RMS power/channel, 8-ohms, 20 Hz (watts)	33.0	Superb
RMS power/channel, 8-ohms, 20 kHz (watts)	31.0	Excellent
RMS power/channel, 4-ohms, 1 kHz (watts)	N/A	N/A
RMS power/channel, 4-ohms, 20 Hz (watts)	N/A	N/A
RMS power/channel, 4-ohms, 20 kHz (watts)	N/A	N/A
Frequency limits for rated output (Hz-kHz)	Below 10-45	Superb
DISTORTION MEASUREMENTS		
Harmonic distortion, rated output, 1 kHz (%)	0.008	Excellent
Intermodulation distortion, rated output (%)	0.009	Excellent
Harmonic distortion, 1-watt output, 1 kHz (%)	0.025	Very good
Intermodulation distortion at 1-watt output (%)	0.02	Very good
DAMPING FACTOR, AT 8 OHMS	51.4	Very good
PHONO PREAMPLIFIER MEASUREMENTS		
Frequency response (RIAA ± dB)	+0.5 - 0	Very good
Maximum input before overload (mV)	140	Very good
Hum/noise referred to full output (dB) (at rated input sensitivity) ("A" weighted)	80	Excellent
HIGH LEVEL INPUT MEASUREMENTS		
Frequency response (Hz-kHz ± dB)	13-41, 1.0	Very good
Hum/noise referred to full output (dB) ("A" weighted)	102	Excellent
Residual hum/noise (minimum volume) (dB) ("A" weighted)	103	Excellent
TONAL COMPENSATION MEASUREMENTS		
Action of bass and treble controls	See Fig. 7	Good
Action of secondary tone controls		N/A
Action of low-frequency filter(s)		N/A
Action of high-frequency filter(s)		Good
COMPONENT MATCHING MEASUREMENTS		
Input sensitivity, phono 1/phono 2 (mV)	2.1	
Input sensitivity, auxiliary input(s) (mV)	105	
Input sensitivity, tape input(s) (mV)	105	
Output level, tape output(s) (mV)	105	
Output level, headphone jack(s)	125 mV	
EVALUATION OF CONTROLS, CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN		
Adequacy of program source and monitor switching		Very good
Adequacy of input facilities		Very good
Arrangement of controls (panel layout)		Excellent
Action of controls and switches		Excellent
Design and construction		Very good
Ease of servicing		Very good
OVERALL AMPLIFIER PERFORMANCE RATING		Excellent

TABLE 3
RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT

Manufacturer: Yamaha

Model: CR-420

OVERALL PRODUCT ANALYSIS

Retail price	\$280
Price category	Low
Price/performance ratio	Superb
Styling and appearance	Excellent
Sound quality	Very good
Mechanical performance	Very good

Comments: Yamaha is an audio component manufacturer that does not sacrifice control or quality when "stepping down" to its lowered power receiver designs. The tuner section (at least the FM) of the model CR-420 exhibited performance characteristics as good as those of higher-priced models, and, even though the unit is not equipped with selectable IF bandwidth, a high-enough alternate channel selectivity was balanced with an adequate bandwidth, so that the distortion levels observed during our tests (at full 100% modulation levels) were incredibly low—often limited by the capabilities of our test equipment. Stereo separation in FM was very high.

Perhaps more important than the measured test results was the intelligent control layout. The separate record-out switch and program source switch are a welcome innovation in a receiver at this low price and permit you to record one program source while listening to another. Yamaha retained the center-of-channel tuning mode for the single meter when it is used for FM tuning. We wish that the tuning switch had been made independent of the stereo/mono FM mode, since the present arrangement prevented us from checking out some weak-signal stations in the stereo mode.

At (or even slightly above) its rated power-output level, the model CR-420 delivers good tight sound that is well balanced and uncolored. With so many new speaker systems requiring no more power than the receiver can supply, it's nice not to have to opt for a super-powered unit just to obtain other high-quality features.

20-kHz bandwidth. The need for a second oscillator and mixer is eliminated.

This changes very little the way we approach overall troubleshooting. As you will see later, dual-conversion receivers require a generator that reaches accurately down into the submegahertz frequencies.

First things first

An excellent place to begin troubleshooting is around the discriminator. You need an accurate 10.7-MHz signal source, unmodulated. Of course, if the discriminator comes after a series of low-IF amplifiers, let's say, the 455-kHz variety—that's the signal source to use.

The important thing to remember is accuracy. Today's more expensive signal generators have plenty of accuracy. However, you should not attempt a discriminator adjustment with just any old signal generator. One of exceptional accuracy and tight stability is a must. Lacking an expensive generator, you may have to make do with one that has less stability; if so, always monitor its output with a frequency counter.

Once the discriminator is calibrated, turn your attention to the IF stages immediately preceding it. In the Fig. 1 example, this means you test the IF amplifier and limiter stages at a frequency of 10.7 MHz. In a dual-conversion receiver, this step deals with 455-kHz stages.

Go to the limiter first. You'll discover that a quick meter check of the action in this stage indicates some things about the operation back towards the front end of the receiver, without even injecting a signal. Monitoring the effects, at the limiter, of an input signal tells you even more.

After checking the limiter, assess the operation of the IF amplifiers and the associated selectivity filters. Again, certain tests reveal whether or not these stages and components perform the way they are intended to. If they don't, correct the trouble before you proceed. Some later tests will depend on the proper operation of these IF stages.

Alignment tells a story

Knowing that transmitter troubleshooting responds well to an alignment procedure in diagnosis, smart technicians apply similar techniques for the IF and RF sections of communications receivers.

Therefore, if the receiver is a dual-conversion set, you next switch your signal generator to the high intermediate frequency and test those stages. As you will discover, you can verify the accuracy of your signal generator by two measurements—one using your frequency counter, and another made at the discriminator of the receiver. (Details will follow later in this article.)

The same procedure works when you

TABLE 1—FM SIGNAL GENERATORS¹

Brand	Model	Frequencies	Accuracy (ppm) ²	Output (mV)	Tone-Squelch Frequencies (Hz) ³
Cushman	CE-4B CE-5	0.01-999.9999 0.05-519.999	3 9	100 100	10.0-9999.0
ifr	FM/AM 1000A	0.03-1000.0	5	5	5.0-9999.9
Lampkin	107C 109 303	0.001-1000.0 2.0-512.0	5 10	100 50	10.0-9999.0
Singer/ Alitech	FM-10CS	0.05-1300.0	10	1	
Wavetec	3001 3002	1.0-520.0 0.001-520.0	100 100	1000 1000	

NOTES:

- 1—All but Wavetec are part of FM communications service monitors.
- 2—ppm = parts per million, each part equivalent to 0.00001% of dialed frequency.
- 3—Dual-tone generator, with variable delays and durations.

check the receiver's RF sections. If the previous tests have been performed correctly, you can quickly zero-beat the receiver to a base transmitter or to a tightly controlled signal generator. (Today's generators (see Table I) with digital settings have an accuracy that exceeds the FCC requirement for transmitters.)

Next on the agenda

It may come as a surprise that audio-and-squelch diagnosis follows the IF and RF troubleshooting procedure. Yet, using a meter to check most two-way radios makes it easy to check out most of these sections—up to and including the FM detector—without having to listen to the receiver.

Furthermore, only if all these tests come out as they should are squelch-system tests meaningful. This is because FM two-way radios depend on noise-operated squelch. Squelch problems in these sets often arise from defects in the RF or IF sections. Anything that reduces the amount of front-end circuit noise at the discriminator can cause "soft or erratic squelch." You could drive yourself crazy trying to track it down in the squeal section.

For this and other reasons, therefore, we suggest getting the discriminator, the low and high IF sections, and the RF and oscillator/mixer stages all in tip-top shape before you worry about squelch or audio.

Also, you can then check out the squelch and audio without having to use an audio generator. Simply feed a frequency-modulated signal (again, most modern generators can be frequency-modulated as well as amplitude-modulated) through the front end of the set (which you have proved OK) and proceed with testing.

This possibility becomes even more important when tone-coded squelch is involved. In these systems, receiver squelch opens up and "hears" only mes-

sages with an accompanying subaudio tone from the transmitter.

First, of course, you must understand how these squelch systems work. Second, you must be able to check the way squelch turns the audio on and off. Finally, you test how the squelch is opened up by the subaudio tone. This last requirement involves using a rather special audio generator, which is beyond the scope of this Special Section.

Final checks

One other important circuit within a receiver is the power supply: Certain DC voltages are regulated.

Before you undertake any other procedures, measure and verify that these regulated DC voltages are where they are supposed to be.

Not many mobile sets use electro-mechanical relays nowadays. Yet you may come across older gear that does use such relays.

Ordinarily, there are only two answers to relay problems: Either burnish the contacts or replace the relay. Only the most experienced relay expert is truly successful in trying to "bend the contacts" so they make and break in proper sequence. Considering the time you might spend on this procedure, and the likelihood of an early failure, your money is better spent on a new part.

Finally, do the customary final touch-ups. If a pilot light looks a little dark, it should be replaced because it will probably burn out soon. Dust out the chassis and clean up the front panel. Use a little alcohol on a Q-Tip to clean almost any corner. Remove knobs so you can clean behind them rather than leave a "ring around the collar."

Most important of all, service the set thoroughly. Whether you use the procedures described in this Section or ones of your own, check the set thoroughly. That's the only way to do the job conscientiously.

FM Detector And Filter Tests

Proper operation of FM detectors is vital to reliable operation of 2-way radio communication. Here's how they work and how to fix 'em.

BEFORE EMBARKING ON TESTS, YOU should understand how an FM demodulator works. Three basic types are used—discriminator, ratio detector and quadrature detector. Each is different, yet the principle of operation is roughly the same.

A frequency-modulated IF signal goes to the primary of a demodulator transformer. The signal is coupled inductively to the secondary. However, capacitance coupling also feeds the signal into the same circuits that are driven by the transformer secondary. This mixes inductively coupled and capacitively coupled signals, 90 degrees out-of-phase with each other.

A pair of diodes, connected in series-opposing at each end of the transformer secondary, act as detectors. However, the 90-degree phase difference causes them to conduct equally under one condition only—when the signal entering the transformer primary is precisely at the resonant frequency of the transformer primary and secondary circuits.

However, during frequency modulation, the signal deviates above and below the center frequency at an audio rate. Imbalance caused by the quadrature signals is proportional to the amount of frequency deviation.

Demodulators in double-conversion receivers center on a 455-kHz frequency. In others, the demodulator centers at whatever IF has been chosen; 10.7 MHz is usual.

Figure 1 shows an example of a basic FM discriminator that is used in many G-E two-way receivers. When the frequency swings above resonance, diode D1 conducts the most current. The voltage across the 220-pF capacitor becomes positive at the junction of D1. The farther the frequency deviates from center, the greater the positive voltage. When the frequency swings below resonance, diode D2 conducts the most current, and diode D1 conducts less. Voltage becomes posi-



LAMPKIN LABORATORIES MODEL 107C

tive at the junction of the capacitor and diode D2. Polarity across the capacitor thus alternates back and forth in step with the frequency deviation.

If you remember your frequency-modulation theory, you know that deviations occur at an audio or voice-frequency rate. The resulting alternating voltage across the 220-pF capacitor corresponds exactly with those voice frequencies. The RF is eliminated by the 220-pF capacitor. The demodulator thus recovers audio or voice modulation from the IF signals.

The discriminator shown in Fig. 2 differs only in how the quadrature or phase-shifted signal is fed to the secondary circuits. A "phantom center tap" is set up by a capacitive divider across the secondary.

The overall effect is identical. A signal precisely at resonance (of the transformer) results in the two diodes conducting equally and developing an equalized potential (0 volt) across the load capacitor. You can measure this zero voltage through a metering circuit—in Fig. 2, the 15K resistor and 0.01- μ F decoupling capacitor.

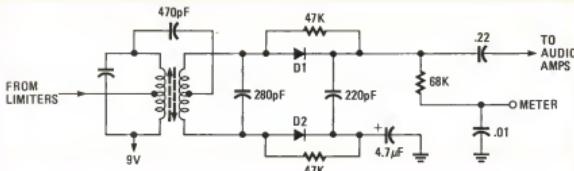


FIG. 1—BASIC FM DISCRIMINATOR is based on old Foster-Seeley design. The capacitor shifts phase by 90 degrees.

Either of two things can move this DC "output" voltage away from zero. First, if the center frequency fed to the transformer is slightly off—that is, not exactly at 455 kHz—the resting meter voltage reads slightly positive (above frequency) or slightly negative (below frequency). Second, with an exact incoming frequency, any misalignment of the transformer resonance, particularly secondary misadjustment, drastically alters the meter reading. In other words, the discriminator meter reads zero only when the incoming frequency is exactly 455 kHz, and when both transformer coils are adjusted to resonate precisely at 455 kHz.

From this, you can determine how to "calibrate" a discriminator; i.e., set it accurately at zero. Feed an accurate 455-kHz signal into the transformer from the limiter stages, and adjust the transformer coils for a zero reading at the discriminator metering point.

Just one precaution: The accuracy of this 455-kHz test signal is crucial. Use a crystal-controlled source, or a highly accurate synthesized generator, or keep a frequency counter on the generator you use. This is the only way you can truly calibrate the discriminator.

Figure 3 shows another type of demodulator. Note how the quadrature signal passes between two capacitive dividers, one across the primary and another across the special three-winding secondary of the discriminator transformer. This particular discriminator is used in Motorola two-way radios. Sometimes it is called a *phase discriminator*; some technicians call it a *capacitance discriminator*. The bottom part (inset) of Fig. 3 restructures the usual diagram to help you understand the operation of the demodulator a little better.

Diode D2 grounds the bottom end of the transformer secondary on the half-cycles in which the top end of the winding is negative (and the bottom end is positive). During that half-cycle, R1 is the load. Diode D1 couples the other end of the secondary to R2 on the other half-cycles. At resonance, D1 and D2 conduct almost identically. The DC voltages they develop show up across capacitor C4. Since these voltages are equal, they cancel each other. Therefore, the voltage at the metering point is exactly 0 (to ground).

Let the frequency being fed to the transformer deviate even slightly from

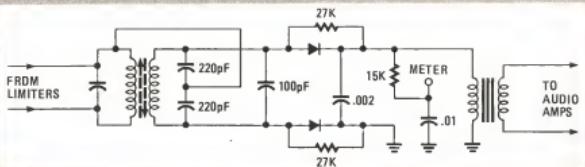


FIG. 2—DIFFERENCE IN SHIFTING PHASE does not alter the operation of this FM detector.

the transformer's resonant frequency and one diode conducts slightly more than the other. The voltage developed across C4 becomes something other than zero. If the frequency goes up, D1 conducts the most and the voltage at the metering point swings positive. Below resonant or center frequency, D2 conducts more and the voltage at the meter point is negative.

Hence, as frequency modulation deviates the signal up and down from the center frequency, the voltage across C4 follows the deviations closely and frequency demodulation occurs.

One thing you will discover when you examine the functional block diagram of almost any two-way radio is that a stage or two of *limiting* precedes the FM discriminator. *Limiters* are saturated stages that level out any amplitude variations that exist in a signal. It is important, for the recovered voice signals to be clear, that a discriminator type of demodulator be fed a pure FM signal. Many factors between the transmitter modulator and the receiver demodulator can vary the signal level, in effect adding some amplitude modulation. Most discriminators are sensitive to amplitude modulation, so limiters are necessary.

Once a limiter is saturated, it develops a base current that is somewhat proportional to the signal fed into the stage. Consequently, connecting a meter across a base resistor will indicate whether the limiter works or not. Virtually all commercial FM two-way radios contain at least one metering point for evaluating the limiter, which is why it's handy as an alignment indicator.

Broadcast FM receivers and some older communications receivers contain a variant called a *ratio detector*. The most notable circuit variation is that the diodes are connected as series-aiding rather than as series-opposing. Capacitors still produce a quadrature phase shift and the same results are obtained as with a discriminator; that is, frequency deviations cause a change in voltage across an output or a load capacitor and voice signals are recovered from a frequency-modulated IF signal.

A ratio detector effectively cancels the amplitude modulations that accompany the IF signal to the detector. Therefore, less limiting is needed. Nevertheless, you almost never find a communications receiver without limiters between the low-IF amplifier and the FM demodulator.

provides a time constant with this load fast enough to respond properly to voice frequencies, yet slow enough to eliminate most of the IF component. Network L1 and C5, together with bypass capacitor C4, filter out any remaining 455-kHz signal. As a result, capacitor C6 couples voice signals onto the audio-amplifier stages.

As always in communications discriminators, there is a test point across the DC output. In this design, since you cannot adjust the quadrature circuit, this test point serves mainly to help you judge whether the filter discriminator is good or bad, or adjust the conversion oscillators.

State-of-the-art two-way radios use an IC for the limiter/discriminator sections. Even with these circuits, a 90-degree phase shift is necessary. So, you will find an adjustable quadrature transformer connected to two pins of the IC. This tunable coil serves the same purpose (insofar as adjustment is concerned) as the secondary of a discriminator transformer.

Figure 5 shows a simplified representation of an integrated-circuit FM demodulator system, with limiters and a quadrature detector contained in one IC.

The quadrature coil is located externally. Tuning it is similar to tuning the secondary of a discriminator or ratio detector, but with one significant difference. You do not align for a zero-centered

Modern systems

Figure 4 shows a modern-day FM demodulator. Instead of a discriminator transformer, a fixed-frequency ceramic filter couples the IF signal from the limiters to the diodes. Designed especially for this purpose, this unique filter offers an extra advantage: high selectivity. Aging seldom changes the filter's resonant frequency more than a few Hertz, so you never have to adjust it; it either works or it doesn't.

The 90-degree phase difference occurs in the discriminator filter itself. Two output voltages develop across R1 and R2, and are fed to diodes D1 and D2. Because they are connected in series-aiding, diodes D1 and D2 deliver a combined DC output voltage that is precisely zero when the frequency that is fed to the filter exactly matches its center resonance. Deviations up or down from the center frequency produce a net positive or negative voltage across R3. Capacitor C3

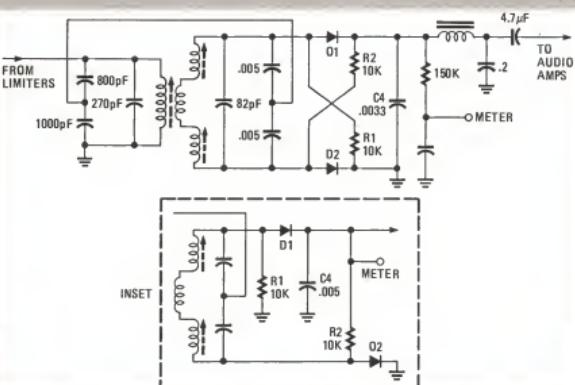


FIG. 3—CAPACITIVE DISCRIMINATOR incorporated in many Motorola two-way receivers, inset shows restructured circuits so you can understand how demodulators work.

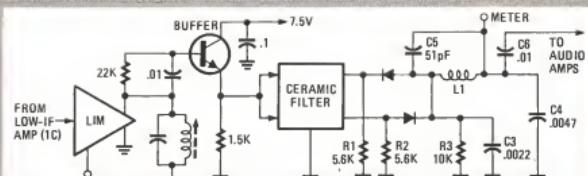


FIG. 4—FM DETECTOR (from marine VHF set) is driven by ceramic filter; it features high selectivity and cannot be adjusted.

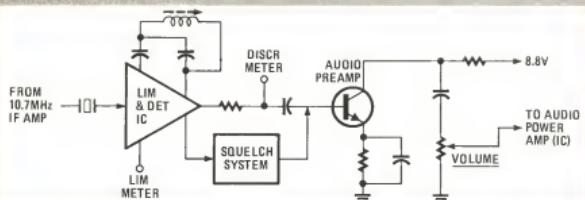


FIG. 5—IC'S IN MODERN DESIGN often combine a limiter and FM detector; the alignment coil is still external.

meter reading. Instead, with a very precise IF signal fed in from the IF amplifiers, you align for an exact 24- μ A meter reading. This happens to be "zero-center" on this quadrature-detector S-curve. Naturally, the circuit includes a detector metering point.

Limiter stages are part of the same IC. As is common practice, there is a metering point for measuring the limiter current. You can use limiter metering to adjust for RF and IF alignment.

The Fig. 5 set has an IF of 10.7 MHz. To calibrate the discriminator, use only a signal source that is synthesized with a digital readout, or is tightly crystal-controlled.

Testing FM detectors

The first test for a discriminator is whether or not it will zero-center properly. This is called "calibrating" the discriminator. (Earlier we stressed the necessity for signal-source accuracy.)

Another important point: DO NOT try calibrating the discriminator from the front end or, in double-conversion sets, with a high-IF signal. Why? If either oscillator happens to be off-frequency, you would zero-center the discriminator incorrectly, or you would unknowingly use an incorrect signal. Perform this part of troubleshooting using only an unmodulated IF signal.

Feed a precisely accurate 455-kHz low-IF signal into the base of the second receiver mixer. If the receiver is single-conversion, use whatever frequency the IF and discriminator take, but feed in the signal at the mixer base. The mixer stage thus isolates any capacitive effect the generator cable has on tuning of subsequent stages.

The signal should be very strong for this test and adjustment procedure. Set the generator-output level high—for at least 500 mV of IF signal.

Connect your DC meter at the discriminator test point. If the meter reads either side of zero, adjust the discriminator coil (the secondary—usually the bottom slug) to center the discriminator as closely to zero as possible. Make sure again that the test signal is precisely at the right IF; otherwise, any later adjustments will be incorrect. Also remember that, in some sets, zero center is at some specified meter reading.

If you can't zero the discriminator, this means trouble, and diodes are the most frequent offenders. Diodes should be fairly well matched; that is, forward resistance should be about the same in both. There should be almost no leakage. A faulty coil or capacitor can also prevent zeroing. Get this corrected before proceeding any further.

Next, test the discriminator for balance. This is where a decade-type generator frequency control comes in handy.

With the discriminator accurately zeroed, reset the generator frequency for 1 kHz above the center frequency. Note the new discriminator meter reading. Then, reset the generator frequency to 1 kHz below the center frequency. The meter reading should move in the opposite direction from zero and exactly the same amount. In other words, equal frequency swings above and below center frequency should result in equal but opposite voltage swings.

Diodes again are your prime suspect when a discriminator fails to show balance. Sometimes, however, a badly misaligned primary coil creates this effect, even when the secondary seems to zero normally. However, go easy; all primary tuning requires that you readjust the secondary for zero. Capacitor values that have shifted (as a result of age or heat) can also cause unbalance. In addition, check the decoupling for the primary winding and the discriminator secondary.

Poor discriminator balance can be caused by a faulty ceramic or crystal IF filter. Although this is not the usual symptom of a bad selectivity filter, don't overlook it. (In a moment we'll tell you how to test filters.)

Connect your DC meter at the metering point in the limiter stage nearest the discriminator. Adjust all low-IF transformer and limiter coils for a maximum reading at the limiter.



CUSHMAN MODEL CE-4B

For this check, don't feed in too much IF signal. Set the signal generator attenuator at zero and turn it up until you see the limiter reading rise slightly. If, when you align the IF and limiter coils, the reading goes higher, keep reducing the generator-output signal. If you oversaturate the limiters, these adjustments will be too broad and you won't obtain accurate alignment.

Broad adjustments in any case signify trouble. Look for a leaky transistor, a faulty transformer or an open decoupling capacitor. Eliminate the trouble before proceeding to any other part of the receiver.

Finding filter defects

Check out low-IF filters when you have your instruments connected for IF alignment. Keep the generator set exactly at the discriminator's center frequency. Feed in just enough signal to quiet some of the circuit noise heard in the speaker. Meter the limiter at the same time. You will note that slight quieting occurs after the limiter reading starts rising.

Now, set the generator-output high so the receiver is almost but not completely quieted. This signal level brings the limiter reading up to about halfway between threshold limiting and "flattening out" or oversaturation. It is important to hear a tiny bit of circuit noise, and note the limiter meter reading.

Now, raise the generator frequency exactly 1 kHz above the center frequency. Pay close attention to the increased noise level of the receiver and the exact degree of reduction in limiter reading.

Next, shift the generator frequency to 1 kHz below center. The meter reading should fall off almost exactly the same amount as for 1 kHz above the center frequency. Speaker noise increases.

You can make and interpret this test in a matter of seconds. If you have any doubts, swing the generator frequency 2 kHz above and below center. Again, the noise levels on either side of center should be the same, with matching reductions in the limiter reading.

If there had been any earlier unbalance in the discriminator or quadrature detector, this test indicates whether you can blame it on defective filters.

Sometimes, when a discriminator zeroes OK but cannot be balanced exactly, some careless folks settle for a compromise balance, with the discriminator resting a little off-center. This results in audio distortion, especially during full signal modulation from another station or transmitter. Always test both the discriminator and filter balance to be sure.

Where filters are ganged, you may wonder which one is bad. Try injecting the test signal between the two filters. Isolate the signal generator with a 50-pF capacitor in series with the cable. Injection tracing lets you isolate which filter has changed characteristic.



You Can

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Chapter 5 questions, electronic components & circuits

1. Which of the following statements regarding the circuit shown in Fig. 1 is true:

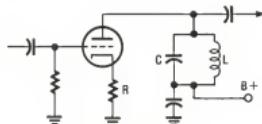


FIG. 1

- () a. will pass all frequencies except one band near the resonant frequency of the L—C circuit.
 () b. will reject all frequencies except one band near the resonant frequency of the L—C circuit.
 () c. the value of R will determine the resonant frequency of the L—C tank circuit.
 () d. resistor R provides regeneration for the circuit.

2. In the circuit shown in Fig. 2:

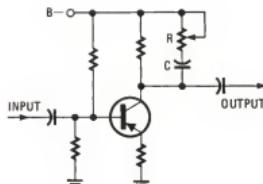


FIG. 2

- () c. R varies the collector voltage.
 () d. R varies the DC voltage on C.
 3. In the Fig. 3 circuit:
 () a. D will conduct when the voltage at E1 is lower than its breakdown potential.
 () b. D is a protective device which will cause R to open if E2 voltage rises above D breakdown voltage.
 () c. D will conduct when E1 voltage is

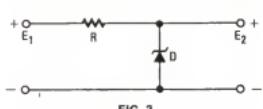


FIG. 3

- higher than its breakdown potential.
 () d. the circuit is that of a simple half-wave power supply.
 4. Regarding the circuit shown in Fig. 4:
 () a. the circuit cannot work as D1 and D2 cancel any signal at E.
 () b. the circuit could work as a regulated power supply.

- () c. the position of the pointer at R

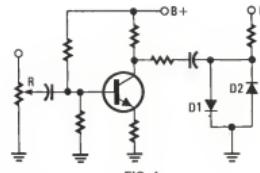


FIG. 4

- would determine the DC voltage at E.
 () d. D1 and D2 are noise limiters.
 5. Regarding the circuit shown in Fig. 5:

FIG. 5

- () a. it will work best if a high impedance headset is connected at E.
 () b. it cannot work without a power supply connected at E.
 () c. it cannot operate over the entire AM broadcast band unless both the L and C1 are variable.
 () d. the value of C2 will determine the station to be received.
 6. The circuit shown in Fig. 6:
 () a. could be used to turn on an alarm.
 () b. is a sound-operated relay circuit.

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of questions aimed at checking your Certified Electronic Technician



DICK GLASS

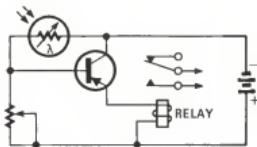


FIG. 6

- () c. can be used to measure fluid flow.
 () d. is an overload protector.

7. What type of circuit is shown in Fig. 7?

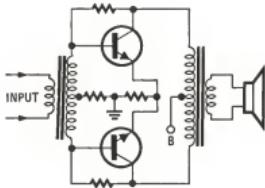


FIG. 7

- () a. a complementary symmetry amplifier circuit.
 () b. a push-push amplifier.
 () c. a push-pull amplifier.
 () d. an emitter-follower amplifier circuit.

8. The circuit in Fig. 8 is a:

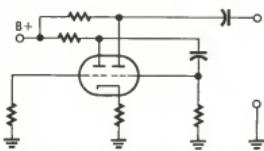
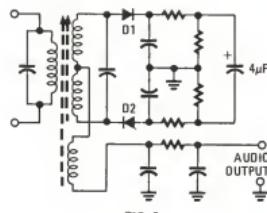


FIG. 8

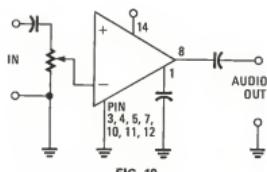
- () a. multivibrator.
 () b. blocking oscillator.
 () c. Armstrong oscillator.
 () d. Hartley oscillator.

9. Figure 9 is a:



- () a. ratio detector.
 () b. quadrature detector.
 () c. discriminator.
 () d. full-wave bridge.

10. In Fig. 10, pins 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, & 12 of the IC might be used for:



- () a. heat sinks.
 () b. optional input level connections.
 () c. optional output level connections.

- () d. they have no purpose.

Be sure to keep this month's issue of Radio-Electronics so you can check your answers in the next CET test.

R-E

Answers To Prior Quiz

Correct answers to Chapter 4 questions on transistors and semiconductors

Here are the answers to the questions on transistors and semiconductors that appeared in the November 1978 issue.

1. Correct answer is "b." Collector and emitter DC voltages on transistors vary widely. Determining that either of these elements has a DC voltage is useful in troubleshooting but the most useful check is to see if the bias voltage (emitter-to-base) is in the range that will permit the semiconductor to operate.
2. Correct answer is "d." The collector of an NPN transistor is positive in relation to the base and emitter. The emitter would be approximately 0.6 volt more negative than the base.
3. Correct answer is "a."
4. Correct answer is "a."
5. Correct answer is "d."
6. Correct answer is "c": A tunnel diode is unique in that it will oscillate at UHF frequencies.
7. Correct answer is "c."
8. Correct answer is "a."
9. Correct answer is "b" (an N-channel JFET).
10. Correct answer is "c."

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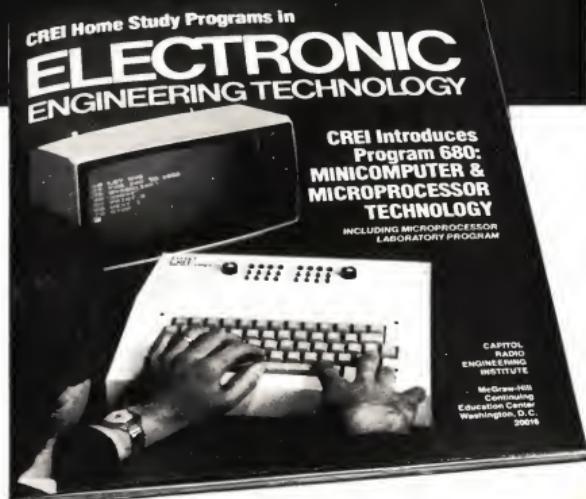
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Learn solid-state circuitry as you complete your monophonic music maker. EARL "DOC" SAVAGE, K4SDS, HOBBY EDITOR

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DID YOU GET YOUR MULTIPLE-TONE GENERATOR and note selector assembled and operating (see "Hobby Corner," **Radio-Electronics**, January 1979)? This month it's time to add, an automatic control system. We'll build a push-one-button-to-play circuit and then add triggers.

The push-to-play circuit calls for a pulse generator and a counter. Figure 1 shows a basic 555 astable multivibrator used as a variable-rate pulser. The rate and, therefore, the length of each note in the tune is determined by R1, R2 and C1. You can increase or decrease any of those components to change the available range of lengths.

Pressing switch S1 removes pin 4 from ground; this enables the 555 pulser that puts out (pin 3) a string of pulses for as

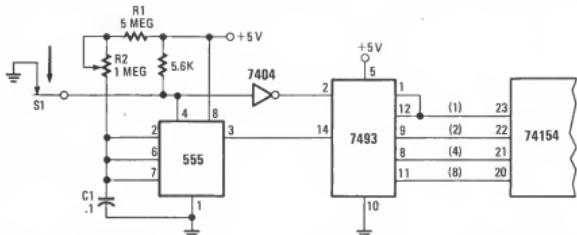


FIG. 1—PUSH-TO-PLAY circuit.

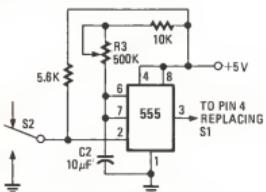


FIG. 2—MONOSTABLE controller circuit.

long as the switch is open. The 7493 binary counter counts the pulses and encodes them to binary 0-15 for the 74154 note selector. This arrangement, of course, replaces the four manual switches that were added temporarily to the 74154 input, as described last month.

The 7404 inverter between pin 4 of the 555 and pin 2 of the 7493 does two jobs. It returns the counter to zero when the 555 is disabled, thus insuring (1) that the tune starts at the beginning regardless of where it stopped, and (2) that zero output pin 1 (74154) is activated. Since no tone was connected to the pin 1 output, the device is silent when S1 is not pressed.

You can use switch S1 to turn on a doorbell, as an alarm clock output or any other device of your choice. As long as the switch is activated, the tune plays. The circuit now plays as much of your tune as there is time for. That's OK, but it seems unfinished!

So let's add another 555 to make the circuit play the tune in whole multiples only—no more part tunes. The 555

Why not use a 556 dual timer in place of the two 555's? Sure, you can do that, but right now we're going to talk about adding even more controller timers.

Control timers

Suppose, for example, that you would like to use your tune player in place of a doorbell, and you have two doors. If you use two switches on one controller timer, it won't be possible to know whether your visitor is at the back or the front of the house. To solve this problem, set up another controller 555, as shown in Fig. 2. Adjust the timing so that one controller plays one-half the tune and the other controller plays the whole tune, or the whole tune once and twice. If your home has three doors, just use three controllers.

When you use more than one 555 controller, you cannot simply tie all the outputs together. The most direct method is to use one or more OR gates (see Fig. 3). If one or more inputs goes high, then the output also goes high and activates the pulsar.

There is one more potential problem: Perhaps a heavy-handed visitor or some other occurrence triggers and re-triggers a controller when you don't want it to repeat. For example, suppose you want the alarm clock to repeat until you turn it off but you don't want to activate the on-

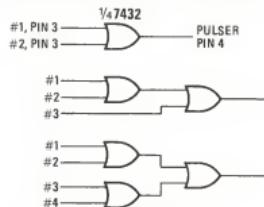


FIG. 3—CONTROLLER COUPLERS.

the-hour chime. The circuit shown in Fig. 4 causes the controller to trigger once and *only once* for each closing of switch S3 no matter how long it is closed.

The single trigger circuit is a little tricky. In fact, you can provide different effects by changing the values of R4 and C4 and even by taking out the diode across the capacitor. These possibilities are available (1) a single trigger when S3

is closed and another when it is opened; (2) a single trigger on closing and another available as soon as the first time-out is completed; and (3) a single trigger on closing following by a "dead-time" of from several seconds to several minutes during which the switch will not re-trigger. The values given in Fig. 4 put my prototype in case (2) above, but much depends upon the quality of C4 and how much leakage it has.

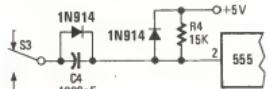


FIG. 4—SINGLE-TRIGGER (time-out) circuit.

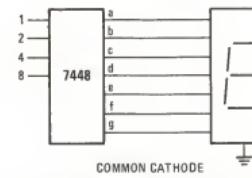
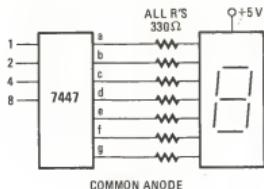


FIG. 5—TWO READOUTS AND DRIVERS.

There are many variations that you can make in these circuits. Build a tune-maker to suit your needs and, then, package it accordingly. Here are just four more ideas:

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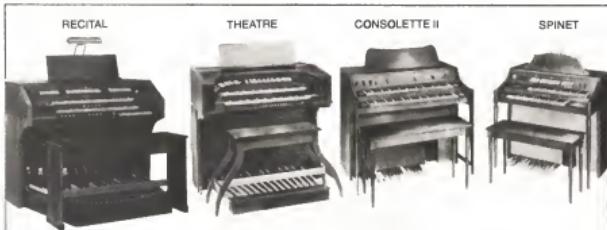
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computer corner

8085 *A look at one memory IC that is among the 8085 family of devices.*

J. TITUS, C. TITUS, D. LARSEN AND P. RONY

IN A PREVIOUS COLUMN (JANUARY 1979), we described the new Intel 8085 microprocessor IC. This is an upgraded type of 8080 microprocessor, since it has features that are not found on the 8080 device. One of the advantages in using the 8085 is the availability of "family" devices that can be used with little or no additional external logic. This makes the 8085 and its family ideal for small controllers, instruments and games, where ex-

pansion and the ability to run large programs such as BASIC may not be required.

This month we will describe one of the 8085-family devices, the 8155 read/write memory.

8155 RAM

The 8155 read/write memory IC contains 256 bytes of memory, which is probably more than enough for a small system. In most cases, the read/write memory will be used for temporary storage of data or results, as well as register and address information. The 8155 is also bus-compatible with the 8085 system through the use of the bidirectional address-data bus and standard control sig-

nals. In this case, only the $\overline{IO/M}$, \overline{RD} and \overline{WR} signals are necessary for memory control. The \overline{ALE} , $CLOCK$ and $RESET$ signals from the 8085 are also provided for internal control of the IC.

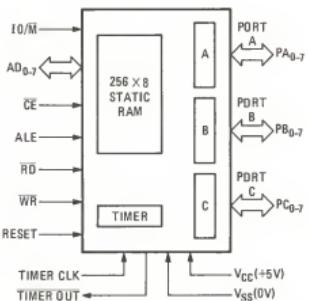
The 8155 has some I/O lines—in fact, there are two 8-bit I/O ports and one 6-bit I/O port. The two 8-bit I/O ports can be operated in either the input or output mode; individual bits cannot be selected. These two ports are called ports A and B. The 6-bit I/O port (port C) can be operated in several ways, but these are beyond the scope of this article. Let us just say that these operations allow the I/O ports to perform in a manner similar to that provided by the mode 1 and mode 2 operation of the 8255 programmable peripheral interface.

The 8155 read/write memory also contains a 14-bit programmable counter, re-

*This article is reprinted courtesy American Laboratories. Dr. Rony, Department of Chemical Engineering, and Mr. Larsen, Department of Chemistry, are with the Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. Both Mr. J. Titus and Dr. C. Titus are with Tychon, Inc.



1	PC ₃	V _{CC}	40
2	PC ₄	PC ₂	39
3	TIMER IN	PC ₁	38
4	RESET	PC ₀	37
5	PC ₆	PB ₂	36
6	TIMER OUT	PB ₁	35
7	10/M	PB ₀	34
8	CE	PA ₄	33
9	RD	PA ₃	32
10	WR	PA ₂	31
11	ALE	PA ₁	30
12	AD ₀	PA ₀	29
13	AD ₁	PA ₇	28
14	AD ₂	PA ₆	27
15	AD ₃	PA ₅	26
16	AD ₄	PA ₄	25
17	AD ₅	PA ₃	24
18	AD ₆	PA ₂	23
19	AD ₇	PA ₁	22
20	V _{SS}	PA ₀	21
8155			



ferred to as a timer. The timer uses either the 8085's clock output or an externally applied clock signal. The timer's output is available as a pin on the 8155 IC, and it can be used several ways, depending on your requirements. It could be connected to the Serial Input Data (SID) pin 5 to be sensed by the RIM instruction, or connected to one of the 8085's interrupt pins (RST 7.5, for example) so that the end of the timer's period could be detected via an interrupt. The timer's output is fairly flexible, being programmed to operate in one of four ways:

Control Bits		M2	M1	Mode Of Operation
D	D	0	0	Output a logic 0 during the second half of the count.
1	0	1	0	Output a squarewave, same as 00 above, but reload and restart the count at the end of each count sequence.
1	1	1	1	Output a single short pulse at the end of the count sequence.

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Control bits M2 and M1 are the most significant ones in the 16-bit value programmed into the counter. Since the counter is only 14-bits-long, the control bits are not included in the count itself, but are used by the control logic to determine the counter-output state when the count has been finally decremented to zero. Whenever a new 14-bit count value is reprogrammed into the counter, these two control bits must also be included in the new 16-bit word.

The 8155 read/write memory also has an internal control register that is loaded with an 8-bit byte that is used to determine operation of the I/O ports and the 14-bit counter.

R-E

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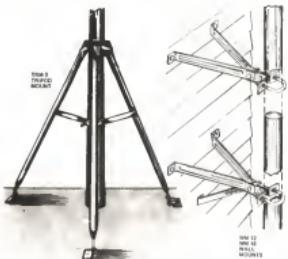


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ANTENNA MOUNTS, model TRM-3, model WM-12, model WM-18. The heavy-duty model TRM-3 is a 3-foot-high tripod that accommodates TV, FM, CB and antenna masts to 1½ inches in diameter. It can be roof-mounted or used in the field without bolting the legs. Comes fully assembled, with cap screws and hex nuts for securing the mast.



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The models WM-12 and WM-18 are 12-inch and 18-inch wall mounts, respectively; both include brackets, U-bolts and hardware for up to 1½ inch diameter masts. List prices: model TRM-3, \$16.90; model WM-12, \$9.50; and model WM-18, \$13.45.—RMS Electronics, Inc., 50 Antin Place, Bronx, NY 10462.

TWO-METER TRANSCEIVER KIT, model HW-2036A. has a 143.5-MHz—148.5-MHz operating range and features a phase-locked synthesizer/VCO loop and choice of simplex, or ± 600-kHz split operation. Features tone encoding, built-in 5- and 11-VDC regulators, hash filter/regulator and gimbal mount. The model HW-2036A-1 (with



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Micorder II mike/auto patch) costs \$289.95; the model HW-2036A-2 (with standard PPT mike) costs \$269.95.—Heath Co., Dept. 350-640, Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

CB MULTIMONITOR, model CB MM6. is designed for 23- or 40-channel mobile/base station equipment and offers six functions in a single unit: An antenna-matching network to adjust

SWR; an SWR bridge and reflected power indicator; a built-in low-pass filter (to eliminate second and third harmonics); a complete antenna monitoring system with warning light; a built-in dummy load with modulation indicator; and a choice of



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using a regular mobile CB antenna or AM/FM antenna for CB communications. The unit comes with two antenna inputs. Other specifications include a 26.5-MHz to 27.5-MHz frequency range, handles 5 watts of input power, 50-ohm input impedance, up to 4:1 VSWR mismatch correction, and spurious signal suppression of -25 dB. The model CB-MM6 measures 2½ W × 4 L × 1½ inches H, and lists for \$49.95.—RMS Electronics, Inc., 50 Antin Place, Bronx, NY 10462.

AM/FM POWER ANTENNA, model FA-80. features a 10-pole motor and is fully shielded against noise transmission and reception. The antenna is completely automatic—it is activated and deactivated by the vehicle's ignition system; as an option it can be connected to car radio's on-off



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switch. The flush-mounted head protects against theft.—Harada Industry of America, Dept. P, 145 E. Alberto St., Carson, CA 90746.

AUDIO TEST STATION

continued from page 48

Rotary switch S3 selects the integrating capacitor, and the charging current is determined by the networks connected to IC201 pins 4 through 7. Small-value capacitors charge faster than larger capacitors for the same charging current so a smaller capacitor selected by S3 will produce a higher frequency. Also for a given capacitor, increasing the charging current by varying R1 and R2 also increases the frequency.

The comparator or squarewave output from pin 13 is applied to Q201, an external buffer. The buffer is necessary because the internal squarewave buffer is an open collector, and the output impedance on the positive edge of the squarewave is equal to R201. Therefore, any significant change in the external load on pin 13 alters the amplitude of the positive edge of the squarewave.

The two resistor networks connected to pins 4 through 7 each control a separate current source for charging the integrating capacitor. These sources can be used singly or in pairs. When used in pairs, the currents of each are added. The voltages applied to IC201 pins 8 and 9 determine which of these current sources is active.

The outputs of both pins 13 and 14 are approximately symmetrical around 0. The output of Q201 ranges from approximately 0 to +V (+6 volts). With S4 in the SYMM position, IC201 pin 8 is at level 0 and pin 9 at +V. This enables both pins 6 and 7 and, therefore, the charging current from the integrating capacitor for both the positive and negative ramps is the total current drawn from pins 6 and 7. When the wiper of R1 is at ground, only a very small current is drawn from pin 7, and the charging rate, or frequency, is determined by R204. Resistor R204 therefore determines the low frequency point when R1, the front panel frequency-adjust slide pot is at the minimum setting. When the wiper of R1 is at -V (-6V), most of the charging current is provided by R205, since it is much smaller than R204. Resistor R205 then determines the high frequency limit when R1 is at the maximum setting. With these values for R204 and 205, the frequency range of R1 is 100:1. The reason that R204 and R205 are not also 100:1 is because even with R1 at ground, R205 contributes slightly to the charging current and therefore R204's contribution must be reduced to compensate. When R1 is at -V, the R204 contribution is negligible compared with that of R205.

When S4 is in the RAMP position and the output from IC201 pin 13 is high, pin 8 is also high. In this case, pins 4 and 5 are activated and they perform exactly as do pins 6 and 7. Remember that the squarewave output of pin 13 is at a constant voltage during rise of the ramp

voltage of pin 14. Therefore, during the positive-going ramp of pin 14, the current is controlled by pins 6 and 7. During the negative portion of the ramp, current is controlled by pins 4 and 5; or, as viewed from the front panel, R1 controls the time of the positive-going ramp and R2 controls the time of the negative-going ramp. If R1 and R2 are in extreme opposite positions, the result is positive and negative ramps with a 100:1 time ratio. With S4 in the ground (symmetrical) position, R1 controls the time of a symmetrical triangular waveform. The result of all this (looking at the front panel), is that R1 and R2 provide a 100:1 change of frequency, and each step of S3 provides a 100:1 change.

We know that the timebase section derives its name from the fact that its primary function is to sweep the audio generator and the time (actually the inverse of time—frequency) base of an X-Y display. To accomplish this, the timebase only has to provide a variable-symmetry triangle wave at low frequency. However, once the basic oscillator is established, it is relatively easy to let it provide other useful functions.

For instance, an effective way to check the proper action of a mixer is to apply two triangle waves, one, high-amplitude at a low frequency; the second, a lower amplitude at a higher frequency. If the mixer is functioning properly, each input retains its individual characteristics at the output, but one input will be riding on the other. The timebase section was designed to provide the three basic waveforms over at least the full spectrum of needed audio frequencies.

A piece of test equipment that many classify as "nice to have" but difficult to justify as a separate purchase is a pulse generator. Again, however, since there is already a basic oscillator in the timebase section, it is relatively simple to shape it into a pulse output. Therefore, the total frequency range of the timebase oscillator is made as wide as the capabilities of the basic oscillator can provide.

You then have a three-function generator with a useful frequency range of 0.002 Hz to 100 kHz and a pulse repetition rate of 0.002 Hz to about 800 kHz. The pulse-shaping section will be covered next month.

To provide the maximum possible versatility to the timebase oscillator, the range of integrating capacitors has been made as wide as practical. There is no DC bias across the integrating capacitor, and the manufacturer of IC201 has specified that the capacitors be nonpolar. This requirement is easily implemented for small-value capacitors; however, large-value nonpolar capacitors are rare and usually large sized.

The problem with using a polarized-type capacitor in a bipolar circuit is that the polarized capacitor tends to leak when you try to charge it in the reverse direc-

tion. If the leakage represents a significant portion of the charging current, the voltage rise across the capacitor (and hence across the output triangle wave) will be an exponential rather than a linear rise. This is because the leakage current increases with the charging voltage. If the leakage is significant, then at some voltage level, the leakage current and charging current will be equal, the voltage will cease to rise and oscillation will also cease. Additionally, some types of polarized capacitors can be damaged by reverse voltage.

Actually, this circuit works quite well with some aluminum electrolytic capacitors. With a supply voltage of ± 7 , the

charging voltage is only about ± 1.5 . Aluminum electrolytic capacitors can tolerate the 1.5-volt reverse voltage. However, low-leakage capacitors, and only those with the lowest voltage ratings, should be used in this circuit.

Note that the integrating capacitors are all evenly spaced one decade apart except for the largest and smallest capacitors. The 470- μ F value capacitor is simply the largest value that will consistently work in this circuit. Also note that the smallest capacitor (C203) must be reduced from its nominal value by an amount that is equal to the stray capacitance of the board and switch circuit.

continued on page 82

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LPF: 100 μ SEC (DC to 20MHz) $\pm 10\%$ (20MHz to 20MHz)

Time Base: 10 μ SEC to 100 μ SEC

Accuracy: $\pm 10\%$ (DC to 20MHz) $\pm 4\%$ (20MHz to 20MHz)

Maxiation: 10 μ SEC to 100 μ SEC

Synchronization: Internal or External + OR - Slope

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Troubleshooting starter circuits in pulse-width modulated power supplies.

JACK PARR, SERVICE EDITOR

THE AUGUST 1978 SERVICE CLINIC, WE discussed pulse-width modulation (PWM) power supplies, and briefly mentioned the starter circuit. Now let's explain this circuit in more detail. This circuit is absolutely indispensable because it gives the horizontal oscillator circuit a swift kick to get it started. The PWM circuit *must* receive gate pulses from this circuit to operate. So, all PWM power supplies use some form of starter circuit. Keep in mind that all this activity takes place in a fraction of a second! When power is applied, the B+ voltage comes up very quickly in all solid-state circuits. Oscillator, driver and horizontal-output circuits start just as quickly.

So, all it takes is a short pulse of DC voltage, somewhere near the right value to get the oscillator going. Once the oscillator is running, the horizontal-output stage starts, as well as the PWM supply, and everything takes off. Some of these stages use quite complex circuits, but basically they're all similar. For example, the RCA CTC-85 color chassis circuitry looks complicated but isn't (see Fig. 1).

The B+ line (unregulated) is provided by a nonisolated bridge rectifier, from the AC line through L201—an AC line choke. At turn-on, a current pulse comes from the + terminal of the bridge and flows through the primary of start-up transformer T201. The current flows through this transformer because a large electrolytic 800- μ F capacitor, C304, is connected to it (C304 later becomes a filter capacitor).

When a capacitor of this size is discharged, it resembles a short circuit to a current source. Translation: the current flows into the capacitor until it is fully charged. While this is flowing, we get a pulse of current through the primary of T201. The transformer's secondary develops the two DC voltages needed—+22 and +27 VDC through the rectifier diodes and filter capacitors. These DC voltages now feed the horizontal oscillator, driver and buffer stages. When these stages start operating, they generate drive pulses to feed the horizontal-output stage and the PWM circuitry (this is on the regulator-control module). The PWM circuit feeds a regulated B+ voltage to

the horizontal-output stage.

Now that we've got our starting kick and things are going, we have to disable the starter circuit or it might interfere with the normal DC supplies, which are all developed by the flyback. The following method is used in all the starter circuits I've seen so far.

In Fig. 1, note D301 and D304, which are connected to the starting DC lines feeding the oscillator, driver, etc. During start-up, these two-diodes are reverse-biased and do nothing. There is a +DC voltage on their cathodes but no voltage at all on the anodes. This is because the normal supply voltage is not working yet. (Remember this is taking place in a very short time!)

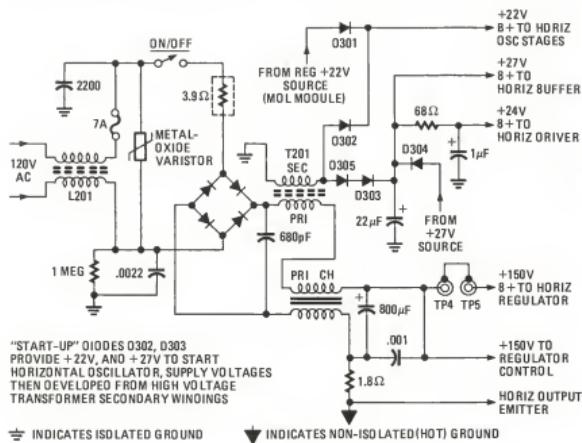
Shortly thereafter, the oscillator circuit and other stages are fed their normal supply voltages, so that they continue operating. Now, the starter circuit has no AC supply to keep it running. The start voltage drops. The **starter diodes** are now reverse-biased and cut off (there is a + voltage on the cathodes, and no voltage at all on the anodes). This isolates the **starter transformer** from the DC lines, which

stays inactive until the set is turned off again. This diode reaction is used for all the starter control circuits I've seen so far.

An interesting test, mentioned in the *RCA Technical Manual*, can be performed. If the starter circuit is not working, nothing happens. After checking the starter diodes, the filter capacitors, transformers, etc., for shorts and opens, you can start the horizontal oscillator by momentarily connecting a +22 VDC supply to the +27-volt input. All it takes is a very short current pulse somewhere near the normal voltage. (Although I haven't tried this, it looks as if you could do this with a bias box. The RCA manual suggests using a 22.5-volt battery, but these batteries are not very common.)

Check the starter circuit for a short DC pulse just as the set is turned on. It is best to use an analog meter because even a small kick of the needle is detectable. Set the meter to approximately the 15-volt scale so that the motion of the needle is easier to observe.

Most problems in these circuits can easily be located with the standard tests—checking diodes, filter capacitors, transformers, etc., for shorts or opens. In the RCA CTC-85 chassis, the entire B+ supply is isolated from the AC line by



► INDICATES ISOLATED GROUND

▼ INDICATES NON-INSULATED (HOT) GROUND

FIG. 1

the horizontal-output transformer; the unregulated B+ supply is not. This leads to the use of two "grounds," one isolated, the other "hot." However, this ground lead isn't really very hot, since it's only a very little way (one diode drop and a 1.8-ohm resistor) away from the isolated ground, or B- line. So little, in fact, that the hot ground can be used as the test equipment ground lead for voltage and waveform checks.

The starter circuit is not difficult to troubleshoot if you know what it does and how it does it. It's just that trying to explain the procedure isn't easy! The PWM won't work till the oscillator starts, the output stage won't work till the oscillator starts, but the output stage must be running to feed the oscillator! Something like the mythological worm with its tail in its mouth!

Thanks to RCA for the CTC-85 Color Chassis Technical Manual, which provided Fig. 1 and much data. R-E

service questions

HEATER STRING SHORT

There's a short in a Sears 19-inch color set that I can't find. The 5-amp fuse in the heater string blows quickly. The 40KD6 tube was bad, as well as the 12BY7 tube. Any ideas?—M. R., E. Chicago, IN.

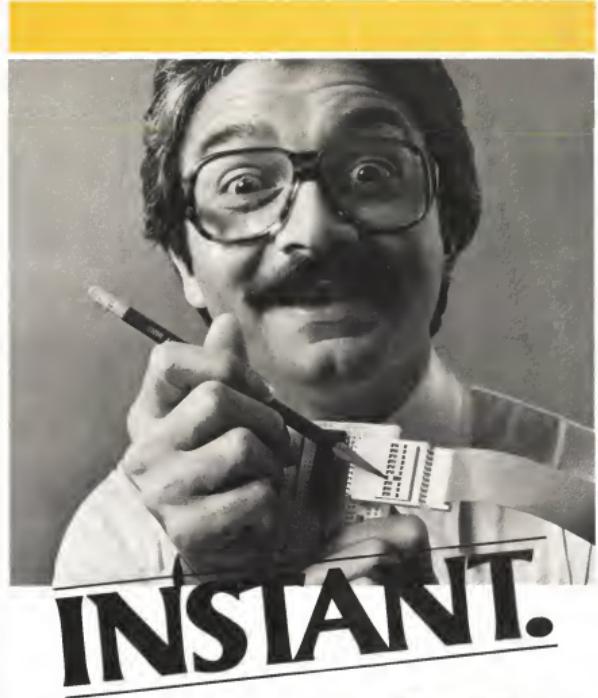
A common cause of this kind of trouble is a heater-to-cathode short in one of the tubes, perhaps one in the middle of the series circuit. (Note: The cathode of the tube must be directly grounded to cause this particular short.) When it happens, the heater circuit is grounded in the middle; this raises the heater voltage on all tubes between the short and the source, and it will usually blow some of the tubes.

(Feedback: "Bulls-eye! I found a 6GH8 tube with the heater-to-cathode short, and another 12BY7 tube was open.")

VERTICAL BLACK LINES

I've had problems in several TS-934 Quasar chassis with one or two small vertical dark lines at the left side of the screen. So far all I've done is try new damper and horizontal-output tubes until I find some that help. Do you have any data on this?—L. J., Eveleth, MN.

Quasar's booklet, *6 Years of Servicing*, says that this problem can be caused by damaged insulation on the red wire between pin 5 of the high-voltage transformer and pin 9 of the damper tube. The cure is to place heavy plastic sleeving over this lead to prevent leakage to the edge of the chassis. (This lead is on the socket side of the chassis under the damper/output tube, and goes to a terminal strip and hash choke L502.) R-E



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AUDIO TEST STATION

continued from page 79

Accuracy and stability are mainly dependent on the components' cost and the amount of care taken during calibration. The oscillator is quite stable, and the timing components can be stable and either precision or trimmable. We decided that the components should be stable but that absolute accuracy was not important. The frequency counter can read down to approximately 1 Hz. By noticing the last digit bobble, it is even possible to interpolate to a sensitivity of less than 1 Hz. Frequencies of less than 1 Hz should perhaps be selected as subjective rather than absolute values. Therefore, the resistors, similar to most of the resistors throughout the rest of the system, are 5% carbon film; the capacitors are as temperature stable as readily available with the tolerance of the smaller values at $\pm 5\%$ and that of the electrolytic capacitors at $\pm 20\%$.

Timebase output circuitry

The output of Q201 serves four functions: One has already been discussed; the other functions will be covered as they apply to other circuits. Transistors Q202 and Q203 form a triangle-to-sinewave converter. Each transistor logarithmically clips one peak of the triangle wave. Resistor R212 determines the degree of rounding of the peak, and R213 makes sure that the peaks are clipped equally. Transistor Q204 buffers the common-collector output of Q203.

Trimmer resistors R224, R223 and R227 as selected form the input resistor to inverter IC202. Each of the three basic waveforms are generated with different signal levels; therefore, these resistors provide that each waveform has the same amplitude at the output of IC202. Trimmers R225, R221 and R240 provide offset nulling for each waveform, with R226, R222 and R239 controlling the sensitivity of those adjustments.

Switch S5 selects one of the three signal lines to be applied to IC202. Note that the squarewave line when it is not selected is grounded through the other half of switch S5. This minimizes squarewave crosstalk into the sinewaves or triangle waves at time of selection. The rise- and falltimes of the squarewave are fast enough to cause a spike waveform to propagate across the contacts of S5 or across the circuit board.

The output of IC202 goes to IC203, which is connected as a unity-gain inverter. Switch S8 then inverts at the output whatever waveform was selected by S5. This is valuable for interfacing with certain other types of equipment and can also help provide a stable scope-trigger for internal calibrations.

Resistor R3 is the front-panel-amplitude slide pot, and IC204 is one-half of an

LM377. This device is generally considered only as a driver for low-power speaker systems, to be used with a single power supply. However, it is far more versatile and actually easier to implement with a split power supply than with a single power supply. Also, from the speaker-driver applications it is not always obvious that this is an operational amplifier suitable for op-amp applications. It is fast enough for the full audio spectrum.

One of the most powerful audio applications for an operational amplifier is as a mixer. The negative inputs of IC204 and IC201-IC203 are connected as a summing junction. This creates a perfect mixer; that is, several independent signals can be added together each with independent gain or loss, without any signal affecting any other signal.

A first encounter with this circuit is often rather mysterious. When you troubleshoot a signal-processing system, you often take an oscilloscope, start at the input and then walk through node-by-node to the output, observing the waveforms and watching for any change from node to node. Normally, the only change from input to output is a change in amplitude. If a node in the chain does not have a signal, you can generally assume that something has either interrupted or grounded the signal since you checked the previous node; also you would not

continued on page 84

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observe that signal in any subsequent node. However, in this circuit (if R3 is not at ground) there is a signal at the left side of R234, but the right side of R234 shows just 0 volt.

This phenomenon is called a *virtual ground*. The input impedance of IC204 (as seen from the wiper of R3) is simply R234. For any signal from R3 that might attempt to pass back through R235, it's as if the right side of R235 were grounded. Turning up the sensitivity control on the scope may reveal a very severely clipped remnant of the signal. However, the output of IC204 is the original signal with a gain of R237 divided by R234.

In addition, there is a DC level that is the voltage at the left of R233 times R237 divided by R235. In this case, the voltage should be zero since R233 provides the offset null of IC204. Front-panel DC offset is applied through R235.

Resistor R236 is necessary for frequency compensation. OP-amp IC204 is internally compensated to be stable at gains greater than 10 (the gain being determined by the ratio of feedback resistor R237 to input resistors R234, etc.). Resistor R236 can be calculated, but is most easily determined empirically. Substitute

a variable resistor for R236, set S5 to the squarewave position, observe the output of IC204, and adjust R236 for both minimum risetime and minimum overshoot at 1 kHz.

Resistor R4 is the front-panel DC offset. With S9 in the SWEEP position, the R4 output mixes with the signal from R3 to provide a ± 5 -volt DC offset of that signal.

Switch S9 provides the manual timebase mode. With S9 in the SWEEP position, the triangle-wave output of the oscillator is used to sweep the frequency of the audio sweep generator as well as the timebase of an X-Y display. Setting S9 switch to the MANUAL position opens the direct connection between R4 and IC204. The triangle wave is removed from its sweep function, and R4 is substituted for it—both for the sweep circuitry and for the timebase output. Switch S5 must be in the TRIANGLE position. Resistors R209 and R206 adjust the output of IC204 so that the signal from R4 that arrives at the upper half of S9 will exactly replace the triangle wave at switch S9.

The LM377 IC has both overcurrent and thermal shutdown. It can apply at least ± 5 volts to a less than 10-ohm load. If a higher signal or power level is required, an LM378 or an LM379 can be substituted, as these IC's are equivalent.

The LM377 is rated at a total supply voltage of 26. The LM378 and LM379

are both rated at 35 volts. The only way to differentiate between those devices that can tolerate a higher voltage from those that can't is to experiment. (The premium price of the LM378 pays for destroying a lot of good LM377's to locate some of the higher voltage units we need.) The LM379 is an LM378 with a metal heat sink on top. A tab at each end lets you solder it into a circuit board; the device is also drilled and tapped so that you can mount an additional heat sink or mount the unit to a chassis.

Although the LM377 is quite immune from self-destruction, it can be damaged by applying a large external voltage at J1. Overvoltage sensor OV201 protects the output of IC204 from external damage. If ± 10 volts or more is applied to the output terminal, OV201 shorts to ground and prevents the external voltage from reaching IC204. If this voltage is present for any significant time, F201 blows, thereby protecting OV201 from excess dissipation.

The external overvoltage protection is optional. There are several devices on the market designed to limit voltage, and the PC board is set up to accept several different types. The recommended LA10 device costs approximately \$20. Even though this \$20 is there to protect a \$3 output amplifier, the value lies in eliminating repair costs and downtime.

Resistor R299 establishes the output impedance. The jumper around R299 is on the circuit board. Normally, R299 is omitted in which case the output impedance is less than 1 ohm. If some other output impedance is desired, it is inserted as R299 and the jumper on the board is cut. The jumper is on the reverse side of the board readily accessible in a finished unit, which makes it easy to attach R299.

Timebase calibration

Connect a reasonably well-calibrated oscillator scope to J1. (The scope is the only calibration standard that will be used and it is assumed that amplitude calibrations are not critical.)

- Set the scope input to DC.
- Set all trimming resistors to their center positions.
- Turn on master power switch S1 and S2.
- Set S5 to TRIANGLE and S8 to NOT INVERT.
- Set R3 to maximum and R4 to 0.
- Set S3 to 1 kHz.
- Set S4 to symmetrical.
- Set R1 to lower position.
- The output should show a clean triangle wave at about 1 kHz.
- Set R3 to zero.
- Make sure that R4 is at 0.
- Adjust R232 for zero offset.
- Set R3 to maximum.
- Adjust R227 for 16 volts peak-to-peak.
- Adjust R240 for zero offset.
- Switch S5 to squarewave.
- Adjust R224 for 16 volts peak-to-

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peak.

Adjust R225 for zero offset.

Switch S5 to sinewave.

Adjust R223 for approximately 16 volts peak-to-peak and R222 for approximately zero offset. Both these resistors will be readjusted later.

Switch the scope input to AC.

Adjust R212 for slight clipping.

Adjust R213 for symmetrical waveform.

With the scope set to AC, adjusting R213 will cause the average level of the waveform to shift; therefore, symmetry is achieved when the positive-going and the negative-going peaks are exactly the same distance from the center line on the scope.

Adjust R212 for minimum sinewave distortion. A sinewave plotted on the face of the scope can greatly assist in this. Use an 8 X 8-centimeter overlay, and a harmonic distortion analyzer can be used if one is available.

Adjust R223 for 16 volts peak-to-peak.

Switch the scope input to DC.

Adjust R222 for zero offset.

Set S5 to triangle wave.

Check the waveform quality at each position of S3.

At the 10K position, the waveform will be distorted; however, the 10K position is only intended to trigger the pulse generator. When you initially check the low-frequency ranges, set R1 to 100 F. Any deviation from strict linearity indicates a leaky capacitor. A slight curving of the

waveform is acceptable for most applications. However, if curving is severe, the circuit may not oscillate at all at low currents. For the lowest positions of S3, set the horizontal timebase of the scope to external; this will produce just a vertical trace. Then, follow the oscillator through at least a couple of cycles to insure there is no excessive leakage. At the 0.002 setting of switch S3, a single cycle is approximately 8 minutes. If the scope beam stops while approaching one peak, increase R1 slightly. This increases the charging current. The beam should continue slightly, which indicates excessive leakage. Increasing R1 past some point should cause the oscillator to restart.

Replace the capacitor that is leaky.

Then,

Set R3 to maximum.

Set S9 to manual.

Set R4 to zero.

Set R206 for zero output.

Move R4 to +5 volts.

Set R209 for a +8-volt output.

Move R4 to -5 volts.

The output should be approximately -8 volts. Resistors R206 and R209 will be fine-tuned later on.

The combination of 50K (R3) and 16K (R234) produces a taper similar to the audio taper in most controls.

That's it for now. Next month, we'll cover the pulse generator, sweep shaper and audio sweep generator.

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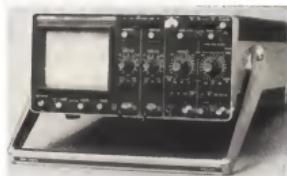
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DUAL-TRACE 100-MHz SCOPE, model PM3262, is a dual-channel, 100-MHz instrument that provides both a main timebase and an alternate timebase to display trigger signals simulta-



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neously. Offers a 5- to 10-mv-per-division sensitivity, rectangular CRT with internal graticule, pushbutton-selectable trigger modes, $\times 10$ magnification, $\pm 3\%$ accuracy, and X-Y operation. Unit operates on 140 VAC, 200-264 VAC, 440 Hz, and 250 VDC. It comes with probes, filters, cover, adapters, and manual, with other optional accessories available. The model PM3262 measures $12.5 \times 6.1 \times 16.2$ in., weighs 21.1 lb., and costs \$2345.—Philips Test & Measuring Instruments, Inc., 85 McKee Drive, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

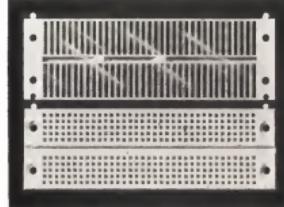
DUST REMOVER Micro-Duster, user nonflammable, nontoxic filtered compressed gas to remove lint, dust, oxide particles, etc., from delicate instruments. Suggested applications include audio components, computer tapes and heads, timepieces, camera lenses and other optical de-



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vices. Micro-Duster produces over 1800 one-second bursts (25-30 minutes continuous dusting) in a single can. It comes with a 6-inch extension tube; for hard-to-reach areas, Vibra-Jet attachment provides extended range. Comes in 15-oz. cans with a suggested retail price of \$2.50. Available only through Chemtronics distributors.—Chemtronics, Inc., 45 Hoffman Ave., Hauppauge, NY 11787.

SOLDERLESS BREADBOARD COMPONENTS, Quick Test (QT) sockets and bus strips, are spring-clip arrays behind a series of small holes on a molded plastic surface that can accommodate AWG Nos. 22-30 wire sizes. Sockets comprise 5-tie-point spring-clip terminals on either



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side of a 0.3-inch channel, and can be used either alone or ganged with jumper leads for larger arrays. Bus strips contain twin rows of interconnected tie-points to provide 35, 47 or 59 tie-point terminals. The sockets come in 7 lengths from 14 to 118 terminals; the bus strips measure from 4.1 to 6.5 inches long, with twin buses of 35, 47, 59 tie points each. Prices: QT sockets, \$3-\$12.50; bus strips, \$2-\$2.50.—Continental Specialties Corp., 70 Fulton Terrace, New Haven, CT 06509.

ADVANCED DRAFTING AID, Paramatic Drafting Set, is designed for technical designers and requires no T-square or parallel bar. The set consists of a vinyl-covered drafting board with



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two 11-inch clear nylon triangles, each locking into a precise horizontal or vertical position on

the board. Also contained is a *Paramatic Line Guide* to permit drawing horizontal parallel lines without moving the triangle from position. *Paramatic Drafting Set* with 13-inch by 21-inch board costs \$45; with 20-inch by 26-inch board, \$85.—Design Instrument Mfg. Co., Inc., 9849 Belfast Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92644.

COMPUTER GAME, Merlin, offers 6 games of chance for 1 or 2 players from age 7 to adult. Games range from simple "Tic-Tac-Toe" to advanced "Mindbender." The unit uses a TI microprocessor with 2K-byte memory and is battery powered.



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operated. Merlin can counter moves with its own strategy, and uses electronically synthesized sounds to communicate wins and losses. Approximate retail price, \$33.—Parker Brothers, 50 Dunham Rd., Beverly, MA 01915.

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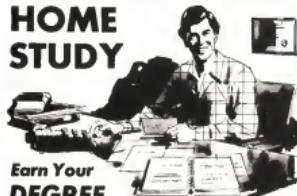
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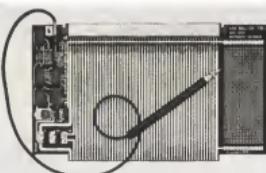
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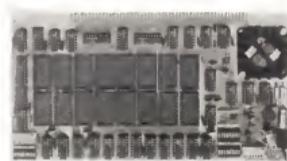


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games (including Trap, Taxman, Calendar, Civil-war, Lunar Lander), backorder and mailing list (using disc data files), plus North Star DOS for Centronics printer (retail sales reporting and profile, both using disc files). Price: \$35 each.—**MicroAge Mail Order**, 1425 W. 12th Place #101, Tempe, AZ 85281.

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MEMORY BOARD, 32K Bytesaver, comes assembled or in kit form, and is compatible with the S-100 bus and with System Two and System Three computers. The board contains a 2716 PROM chip, compatible with Intel 2716 PROM's or equivalent. Fast data storage is implemented by a single write into an erased PROM. The board also provides a 32K-byte ROM capability. Switches are provided to protect and



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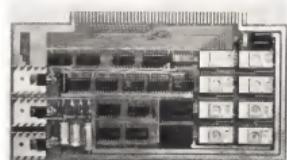
assembling debug or test circuits. Power is provided by an on-board 5-volt regulator. Other features include power-supply links for current measurement and independent supply switching; edge connector label, and gold-plated edge connectors. List price, \$35—**Mullen Computer Products**, Box 6214, Hayward, CA 94545.

8-LEVEL READER/PUNCH is equipped with a serial interface that operates with a standard acoustic coupler or an RS-232-compatible interface. The serial interface converts reader contact inputs and punch solenoid outputs to RS-232 levels and ASC11 codes computer hookup. The



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S-100 BUS PROM BOARD, model BK Plus 2, is available in kit form (plus sockets) or fully assembled. The board is designed for use with eight 2708 EPROM's, and has two provisions for either 2716's or pin-compatible 8316 ROM's. The board's circuitry can pull Ready-Line low for use with low-speed ROM's, and three extra 16-pin



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unit can also be used as a remote paper-tape terminal. Applications include typesetting, numeric control, program paper tape loading and paper tape generation/duplication. Parallel interface version is also available. Prices: serial version, \$895; parallel version \$695.—**NCE/Computer Mart**, Box 8610, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE is packaged on mini-disks in North Star format, ready for implementation in any S-100 8080/280 system. The applications programs include: financial, mathematical analysis, statistical and miscellaneous,

pads are included for TTL PROM's, power-on jump, etc. The board is made of epoxy glass with solder-limed pads and buses and gold-plated edge connectors. Prices: kit, \$59.95, assembled, \$109.95.—**Mini Micro Mart**, 1618 James St., Syracuse, NY 13203.



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As featured
in POPULAR
ELECTRONICS

Show off
yourself &
Memory boards,
GATE BOARD & Ring Board.

HOBBISTS! ENGINEERS! TECHNICIANS! STUDENTS!

Write and run machine language programs at home, display video graphics on your TV set and design microprocessor circuits—the very first night—even if you've never used a computer before!



ELF II featuring RCA COSMAC microprocessor / COMPUTER \$995



in FORTRAN and BASIC must be translated into machine language before a computer can understand them. With ELF II you build a solid foundation in computers so you'll really know what you're doing, no matter how complicated things get.

Video output also makes ELF II unique among computers selling for such a low price. Attached to your TV set, ELF II becomes a fabulous home entertainment center. It's capable of providing endless hours of fun for both adults and children of all ages. You can create graphics, alphanumeric displays and fantastic video games.

No additional hardware is required to connect ELF II to your TV's video input. If you prefer to connect ELF II to your VCR, you can do that too and use a low cost RF modulator (to order one, see coupon below).

ELF II's 5-card expansion bus (connectors not included) allows you to expand ELF II as your needs for power grows. If you're an engineer, hobbyist or student, you can add to ELF II as a counter, alarm, lock, thermostat, timer or telephone dialer, or for countless other applications.

ELF II Explores Into A Giant

Thanks to ongoing work by RCA and Netronics, ELF II add-ons are among the most advanced anywhere. Plug in the monitor and you can record and play back programs, edit and debug programs, communicate with terminals and make things happen in the outside world. Add Kage Board to get ELF II to solve problems such as operating a more complex alarm system or controlling a printing press. Add the new ROM card to write home programs, store more information and solve more sophisticated problems.

Expanded, ELF II is perfect for engineering, business, industrial, scientific and personal finance applications. No longer is it necessary to buy an expensive computer to handle what you need. ELF II's low price is backed by such an extensive research and development program.

The ELF-BUG™ Monitor is an extremely recent breakthrough in programming with lightning speed, because the key to debugging is knowing where the registers of the microprocessor and, instead of single stepping through your program, the ELF-BUG™ Monitor, utilizing break points, lets you display the contents of memory on your TV screen at any point in your program. You find out immediately what's going on and can make any necessary changes. Programming is further simplified by displaying 24 bytes of data with full address and cursor and auto scroll. A must for serious programmers!

Netronics will soon be introducing the ELF II Color Graphics & Music System—more breakthroughs that ELF II owners will be the first to enjoy!

Now BASIC Makes Programming ELF II Even Easier!

Like all computers, ELF II understands one language—the language of the computer itself. In order to teach each other, but to make life easier for you, we've developed an *ELF II BASIC*. It talks to ELF II in machine language for you so that you can program ELF II with simple words that can be typed out on a keyboard. It's called *ELF II BASIC* and LOAD.

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Learn The Skill That May Soon Be Far More Important Than Your College Degree

The ability to use a computer may soon be just as important to your career as having a college degree. Without a knowledge of computers, you are always at the mercy of others when it comes to solving highly complex business, engineering, industrial and scientific problems. People who understand computers can command MONEY for their ideas and action, and companies have chosen the ELF II to introduce their students and personnel to microprocessor computing!

ELF II Is The F-A-S-T Way To Learn Computer Fundamentals!

Regardless of how minimal your computer background is now, you can learn to program a computer in almost no time at all. That's why Netronics offers the *Short Course on Microprocessor & Computer Programming* in non-technical language that leads you through every one of the RCA COSMAC 1802's capabilities so you'll understand everything ELF II has to offer. And get it fast. *Get it done*.

If you have an 1802, you can even learn to program it to you, step-by-step. The text, written for Netronics by Tom Pittman, is a tremendous advance over every other programming book in print.

Keyed directly to the ELF II, it's loaded with "hands on" illustrations. When you're finished, ELF II and the 1802 will no longer hold any mysteries to you.

In fact, not only will you be able to use a personal computer correctly, you'll be ready to read programs such as BYTE, INTERFACE AGE, POPULAR ELECTRONICS and PERSONAL COMPUTING and understand the articles.

If you have large computers, ELF II and our short course will help you to understand what makes them tick. A dynamic package For Just \$99.95!

With ELF II, you learn to use machine language—the fundamental language of all computers. Higher level languages such

NOW AVAILABLE FOR ELF II—

□ Tom Pittman's *Short Course On Microprocessor & Computer Programming*—\$19.95 postpaid.

□ ELF-BUG™ Monitor for the 1802. Contains SAVE, LOAD, Z+, Y+, -Z, -Y, 26 variables A-Z, LET, IF-THEN, INPUT, PRINT, GO-TO, GOSUB, RETURN, END, CARTRIDGE RUN, PLOT, PEEK, POKE. Comes fully documented and includes alphanumeric generator required to display alphanumeric characters and symbols on your TV screen without additional hardware. Also plays tick-tack-toe plus a drawing game that uses ELF II's hex keypad and joystick. 4K memory required. \$14.95 postpaid.

□ Tom Pittman's *Short Course on Tiny BASIC* for ELF II, \$5.95 postpaid.

□ Expansion Power Supply (required when adding 4K RAM), \$34.95 plus \$2.95 postpaid.

□ ELF-BUG™ Deluxe System Monitor on cassette tape. Allows displaying the contents of all registers on your TV at any point in your program. Includes 24 bytes of memory with full addresses, blinking cursor and auto scrolling. A must for the serious programmer! \$14.95 postpaid.

□ Professional ASCII Keyboard kit with 128 ASCII upper/lower case set, 96 printable characters, on-board regenerative keyboard velocity and 4 handshaking signals to mate with almost any computer. \$64.95 plus \$2.95 postpaid.

□ 4K Statim Kit. Addressable to any 4K page to 64K. \$89.95 plus \$3.95 postpaid.

□ Gold plated 86-pin connectors (one required for each plug-in board). \$5.70 postpaid.

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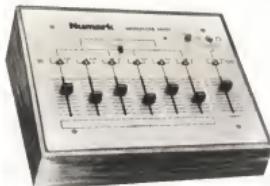
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CIRCLE 68 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

stereo products

More information on new products is available from manufacturers of items identified by a Free Information number. Free Information Card is inside the back cover.

MICROPHONE MIXER, model MX3000, is a sound-studio unit designed to handle any high-power amplifier without using external preamp. It has provisions for 6 mike inputs and 2 stereo line inputs. Other controls include individual mike attenuators, and stereo/mono switches, a master control switch and headphone monitor. Speci-



CIRCLE 109 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

fications are: Input sensitivity (mike), 0.5 mV, (line) 65 mV; output impedance, 100 ohms; hum and noise (mike), -52 dB, (line) -65 dB; frequency response (mike) 20 Hz-18 kHz (1 dB); (line) 10 Hz-30 kHz (-1 dB). The unit measures 12½" W × 9" H × 3½" D, and weighs 6½ lb. Suggested retail price: \$149.95.—Numark Electronics Corp., 503 Raritan Center, Edison, NJ 08817.

TAPE RECORDER CARE KIT provides a flexible way to clean tape heads in hard-to-reach spots. The kit contains various plug-together plastic

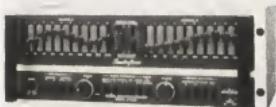


CIRCLE 110 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

tools, a mirror, a variety of felt applicator tabs, and a bottle of tape head cleaner. Price: \$8.95.—Maxell Corp. of America, 130 Commercial Way, Moonachie, NJ 07074.

SIGNAL PROCESSOR/PREAMPLIFIER, model SP4002, contains two separate phono preamps with a 0- to 150-pF variable cartridge loading capability and a variable impedance of 100 mV at 47,000 ohms; both accept any cartridge with a 0.28- to 300-mV output capability. Each preamp contains inputs and outputs, and provides a vari-

able ± 20-dB gain, 97-dB S/N ratio, 300-mV overload capability, plus the newly approved RIAA equalization curve. Front-panel controls include signal processing switches (including

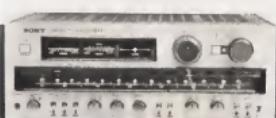


CIRCLE 111 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

subsonic filter, external loops, equalizer, monophonic mixer for Channels A and B and tape-record switches); volume and balance control switches; power on/off switch; and source selection switch. Built into the preamplifier unit is a graphic equalizer providing from 15-dB to 22-dB boost-per-octave and a better than 114-dB S/N ratio. Also included on the front panel are headphone jacks and an extra tape recorder jack. Price: \$699.—Soundcraftsmen, 1721 Newport Circle, Santa Ana, CA 92705.

AM/FM STEREO RECEIVER, model STR-V7, is a top-of-the-line unit that provides 150 watts-per-channel RMS into 8 ohms from 20 Hz to 20 kHz, with no more than 0.07% THD and IM distortion. Its features include tape monitors and dubbing; stepped-attenuator volume control; bass and treble controls; high-cut and low-cut filter switches; and a loudness-compensation switch. The receiver also includes an FM bandwidth switch, linear dial calibration, flywheel coupling, FM muting switch, center tuning and signal-strength meters.

The tuner front end contains a MOSFET RF amplifier, 4-gang tuning capacitor and oscillator;



CIRCLE 112 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

the IF stage comprises 4-element ceramic filters, a differential amplifier and 5 banks of limiters. A phase-locked-loop multiplex IC provides 48-dB at 1-kHz stereo separation. The amplifier section contains a toroidal-coil transformer and two 15,000-μF capacitors; and the preamp features RIAA phono equalization and provides 25-mV overload protection. Suggested list price: \$820.—Sony Corp. of America, 9 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

next month

■ Your Own Computer

A special section devoted to personal computing with the accent on peripheral devices, including printers, terminals and floppy discs. You won't want to miss the many hints on selecting and setting up a system and the round-up listings of peripheral devices.

■ Rechargeable Batteries—Past, Present And Future

A look at the improvements that have taken place in the last 10 years and what may take place in the next 10 years, with a special look at lithium cells.

■ Build A String Synthesizer

Part 2—Construction details for a professional-quality music synthesizer that can be built for many times less than commercially available instruments.

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ELECTRONICS CATALOG, 48 pages of discounted items for electronics hobbyists, educators, dealers. Includes hundreds of items from basic components to TV and hi-fi equipment, a radar warning system, telephone keyboard, clock assembly, etc. Catalog also includes a 16-page wholesale supplement listing items of special interest to dealers and volume users.—ETCO Electronics Corp., North Country Shopping Center, Rte. 9 North, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

CIRCLE 105 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

BRADFORD COMPONENTS CATALOG, 8 pages listing components for servicing Bradford TV's and appliances. Included are resistors, VDR's, transistors, diodes, electrolytics, semiconductors; several parts kits are featured, as are Bradford service manuals. Price: \$1.50 (refundable with first purchase).—The Marcel Companies, Part Division, 57 Enfield St., Enfield, CT 06082.

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE, Common Production Soldering Problems: Causes and Cures, is a four-page article detailing the most common soldering defects and can be used as a reference for assembly and production personnel. Some of the problems discussed are insufficient or excessive solder on joints, solder joint discoloration and solder bridges, nonwetting and dewetting conditions, mespling and cold joints. Possible causes for solder defects plus suggested solutions accompany each section.—Multicore Solders, Westbury, NY 11590.

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CIRCLE 107 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

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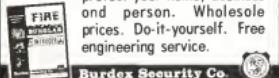
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2SB 435	.90	1.10	1.20	2SC 1384	.35	.40	.45	HA 1322	2.50	2.70	3.00	1S 2093	.35	.40	.45
2SB 463	.90	1.10	1.20	2SC 1419	.60	.70	.80	HA 1399	2.50	2.70	3.00	1S 2473	.16	.18	.20
2SB 473	.80	.90	1.00	2SC 1675	.20	.27	.30	HA 139A	2.50	2.70	3.00	1N 34	.12	.13	.15
2SB 474	.70	.80	.90	2SC 1678	1.10	1.25	1.40	HA 1366	2.50	2.70	2.90	1O 10	.45	.55	.60
2SB 492	.60	.70	.80	2SC 1726	.70	.80	.90	HA 1366W	2.50	2.70	2.90	WZ 011	.20	.22	.25
2SB 508	.80	.90	1.00	2SC 1730	.45	.53	.59	LA 4031P	1.80	2.00	2.25	WZ 192	.20	.22	.25
2SB 528D	.70	.80	.90	2SC 1760	.70	.80	.90	LA 4040	1.90	2.10	2.40	WZ 01B	.30	.35	.40
2SB 595	1.10	1.40	1.50	2SC 1816	1.50	1.70	1.95	LA 4220	2.00	2.20	2.50	WZ 071	.20	.22	.25
2SB 596	1.10	1.40	1.50	2SC 1868	.50	.64	.70	LA 4400Y	2.00	2.20	2.50	WZ 075	.20	.22	.25
				2SC 1909	1.80	2.00	2.25	LA 4420	2.00	2.20	2.50	WZ 090	.20	.22	.25
				2SC 1970	2.10	2.50	2.80	STK 011	3.80	4.00	4.40	WZ 120	.20	.22	.25
				2SC 1978	5.40	6.00	6.60	STK 013	7.60	8.00	8.80	WZ 192	.20	.22	.25
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				2SC 2076	.50	.64	.70	TA 7045M	2.00	2.20	2.50				
				2SC 2091	.90	1.10	1.20	TA 7061P	.90	1.10	1.20				
				2SC 2092	1.80	2.00	2.25	TA 7062P	1.10	1.25	1.40				
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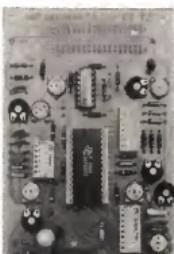


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74193	276-1820	1.19
74194	276-1832	1.19
74196	276-1833	1.29
4001	276-2041	.496
4010	276-2111	.496
4012	276-2412	.496
4013	276-2413	.496
4014	276-2414	1.49
4026	276-2420	1.49
4027	276-2421	1.49
4029	276-2423	.696
4027	276-2427	.896
4045	276-2445	.896
4046	276-2446	1.69
4049	276-2449	.896
4050	276-2450	.896
4051	276-2451	1.49
4052	276-2452	1.49
4053	276-2453	1.49
4054	276-2454	1.49
4055	276-2455	1.49
4056	276-2456	.996
4057	276-2457	.996
4058	276-2458	.996
4059	276-2459	.996
4060	276-2460	.996
4061	276-2461	.996
4062	276-2462	.996
4063	276-2463	.996
4064	276-2464	.996
4065	276-2465	.996
4066	276-2466	.996
4067	276-2467	.996
4068	276-2468	.996
4069	276-2469	.996
4070	276-2470	.996
4071	276-2471	.996
4072	276-2472	.996
4073	276-2473	.996
4074	276-2474	.996
4075	276-2475	.996
4076	276-2476	.996
4077	276-2477	.996
4078	276-2478	.996
4079	276-2479	.996

8080A Microprocessor and Support Chips

New — 100% Prime

SALE



All With Full Data and Specs

8080A Microprocessor, 2 μs cycle time	276-2310	Reg \$12.95	Sale 9.95
8206 Bus Driver, 8-bit bidirectional	276-2309	Reg \$12.95	Sale 9.95
8215 128x8 Bit RAM I/O	276-2312	Reg \$12.95	Sale 9.95
276-2511 Reg \$9.95			Sale 7.95
621210P Port, Data latch and buffer	276-2313	Reg \$12.95	Sale 9.95
276-2314 Reg \$12.95			Sale 9.95
8244 Clock and Generator Driver	276-2524	Reg \$9.95	Sale 2.95
8265 System Controller and Bus Driver	276-2525	Reg \$9.95	Sale 2.95
8251 Programmable Communication Interface	276-2551	Reg \$9.95	Sale 7.95
8265 Programmable Peripheral Interface	276-2555	Reg \$9.95	Sale 7.95

RAM Memory ICs

Under 450 nS Access Time

2102 1024 x 1 Array, Low-cost static memory chip, 16-pin DIP	Buy 8 and save!	2.49 Ea	\$14.95
2114L 1024 x 4 Array, NMOS static RAM, 16-pin DIP		12.95	Sale 10.95
276-2504, Reg \$12.95			Sale 10.95

WHY WAIT FOR MAIL ORDER DELIVERY?
IN STOCK NOW AT OUR STORE NEAR YOU!

Prices may vary at individual stores and dealers

SN-76477 Sound/Music Synthesizer IC

2.99 Featured in Oct.
Popular Electronics



Creates almost any type of sound — music to "gunshots". Built-in audio comp. Includes 2 VCO's, LF osc., noise gen., filter, 2 mixers, amplitude modulator, logic controls, 2 digital-to-analog converters, 2 DIP. Wide data/apply circuits. Circuits 276-1765. **2.99**

Analog Audio Delay IC MN 3002

10.95 Analog Audio Delay IC
MN 3002



For Phase-Shifter,
Reverb & Delay Circuits

"Bucket Brigade" device uses 512 shift registers to provide a continuously variable delay. Applications include: phase shifter, reverb, echo, tape delay, and other audio signal processing. Includes data sheet and applications circuits. Circuits 276-1765. **10.95**

Top-Quality IC and PCB Accessories



PC Potentiometers

% W. (Fig. A)	% W. (Fig. B)
0mks	271-226 49%
1k	271-227 49%
10k	271-228 49%
25k	271-229 49%
50k	271-230 49%
100k	271-231 49%
500k	271-232 49%
1M	271-229 49%

IC Breadboard Sockets



Modular boards snap together and feature standard 0.3" center. Accept 22 through 30-gauge solid hookup wire.

• 550 connections in 2 bus strips of 40 tie points each with 47 rows of 5 connected tie points. **2.99**

• 270 connections in 2 bus strips of 40 tie points each with 29 rows of 5 connected tie points. **2.99**

• Mini-Socket, 22 rows of 5 tie points each, plus 2 bus strips with 10 connections each. **2.99**

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SUPER 15 WATT AUDIO AMP KIT



ONLY \$23.50 each

63 KEYS ASC11 DECORDED COMPLETE KEYBOARD

by Honeywell

with dual color key tops, uses TMS 5000 decoder LSI. (schematic data included)



**SPECIAL
\$56.50
NOT A KIT!**

MANY SOUND DECISIONS!



S3 60 EACH

Solid state volume and indicator operating voltage 6V DC 30μA. Small size approximately 3" x 1 1/4".
Model EB2116 (Continuous)
Model EB2116 (Slow Pulse)
Model EB2116 (Fast Pulse)



Continuous



Slow pulse



Fast pulse

1Watt AUDIO AMP



All parts are pre assembled
on one PC Board.
Supply Voltage 6-19 V.D.C.
SPECIAL PRICE \$1.95 ea.

"FISHER" 30 WATT STEREO AMP



Main Amp Model X-30
Kit includes: Power Transformer, FET's, PC Board, Hybrid IC's, all electronic parts with PC Board, power supply & 2 36V 100mA power transistors. Input impedance with (KF 1% ± 3dB). Voltage gain 33dB. 20Hz-20KHz.
Super Bay Only \$18.00



5W AUDIO AMP
7 LM 380 with Volume Control
Power Supply 6-18V OC
only \$5.00 ea.

TIMER KIT



Time Controlled from 1-100sec.
Ideal to be used as timer delay
unit for burglar alarm, photo
service, and other purposes.
Max. loading 110V 10Amp.
Supply voltage 12-18V DC.
\$11.50 each

ELECTRONIC ALARM SIREN



COMPLETE UNIT
Ideal for use as an alarm unit
or horn. Can be wired up
to make a reverse indicator.
Light Output up to 130dB
Voltage Supply 6-12V \$7.50



Part completely on a PC Board.
SCR will turn on relay, buzzer or trigger other
device. Used for door, window, etc.
Ideal for use as alarm, sound controlled toys,
etc. Supply voltage 4-24V DC
\$1.75 ea or \$10.00

LINEAR SLIDE POT 500KΩ SINGLE



Metal Case 3" Long
2 FOR \$1.20



DIGITAL ELECTRONIC LOCK KIT
for home, office, apartment, entry
door, burglar alarm, etc.
\$6.50 ea.
CMOS I.C., 4 Digits Programmable to
any Combination
40mA RELAY AND KEY PAD NOT INCLUDED



BATTERY POWERED
FLUORESCENT LANTERN
FEATURES:
• Completely designed for operation by high
efficiency power silicon transistor
while reliable illumination maintain in a
white reliable illumination.
• While reliable illumination maintain in a
white reliable illumination.
• 6V DC UM-3 (size 0) dry cell battery.
• Easy sliding door for changing batteries.
• Completely refills lantern while angle increasing
illumination of the lantern.

\$9.60 EACH
MODEL #85 R

STK-015 Hybrid Power Amp

Kit Includes: STK-015 Hybrid IC, power supply with power transformer, front Amp with tone control, all electronic parts as well as PC Board. Less than 0.5% harmonic distortion at full power 9dB response from 20-100,000 Hz. This amplifier has QUASI-Complementary class B output. Output max is watt (10 watt RMS) at 4Ω.



PROFESSIONAL CASE

for our 0-30V Power Supply. It
is a nice looking metal cast case
with giant 4" volt/amp meter;
output binding post and fuse
holder, on/off switch and line
cord! **ONLY \$21.50 EA.**

CASE #9



POWER SUPPLY KIT

0-30V D.C. REGULATED
Uses UA723 and ZN3055. Power
TR output can be adjusted from
0-30V. Includes: Power Transformer,
PC board and all electronic parts.
0-30V POWER SUPPLY
Transformer for Power Supply, 2 AMP 24V x 2 \$6.50
30V DC Panel Meter \$4.25



12V DC MINI RELAY

P.C. Board Solder Type
2AMP Contact SPDT \$1.30 EA
2AMP Contact SPDT 15V 1.5A
3AMP Contact SPDT 22V 2.0A



ELECTRONIC CONDENSER KIT

CONDENSER TYPE
Touch On Touch Off
Tubes 7473 1C,
and 2N3904 1C
SS 50 each



AUTO ALARM KIT

The Crimeliner Auto
self-controlled auto
protection system. It mounts
within the power source
unit. After two minutes it turns
off the ignition. When auto is re-entered, the
alarm sounds for 10 seconds. If the alarm is
deactivated, the alarm will sound for two minutes
until it is again deactivated. When the alarm
is reset it is ready to again protect the
vehicle.

FEATURES: Simple installation. 5 wires.

Automatic turning off extended time to

allow for unhooked auto protection of boats,

camper, trailers, motorcycles, trucks, cars,

Cannot be turned off without ignition key.

Normal operation is 12VDC.

Can be turned off without ignition key.

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Normal operation is 12VDC.

FREQUENCY COUNTER KIT

Outstanding Performance

Incredible Price

\$89.95

CT-50



The CT-50 is a versatile and precision frequency counter which will measure frequencies to 60 mHz and up to 600 mHz with the CT-600 option. Large Scale integration, CMOS circuitry and solid state display technology have enabled this counter to match performance found in units selling for over three times as much. Low power consumption (typically 300-400 ma) makes the CT-50 ideal for portable battery operation. Features of the CT-50 include: large 8 digit LED display, RF shielded all metal case, easy pushbutton operation, automatic decimal point, fully socketed IC chips and input protection to 50 volts to insure against accidental burnout or overload. And, the best feature of all is the step by step instructions guide you to a finished unit you can rely on.

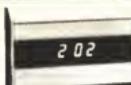
Order today!

CT-50, 60 mHz counter kit
CT-50WT, 60 mHz counter, wired and tested
CT-600, 600 mHz option, add

SPECIFICATIONS:

Frequency range: 6 Hz to 65 mHz, 600 mHz with CT-600
Resolution: 10 Hz or 0.1 sec gate, 1-Hz or 1 sec gate
Readout: 8 digit 0.4" high LED, direct readout in mHz
Accuracy: adjustable to 0.5 ppm
Stability: 20 ppm over 10° to +40° C. temperature, compensated
Input: BNC, 1 megohm, 20 pF direct, 50 ohm with CT-600
Overload: 50VAC maximum, all modes
Sensitivity: less than 25 mV to 65 mHz, 50-150 mV to 600 mHz
Power: 110 VAC 5 Watts or 12 VDC, 400 mA
Size: 6" x 4" x 2" high quality aluminum case, 2 lbs
ICs: 13 units all socketed

CAR CLOCK



The UN-KIT, only 5 solder connections

Here's a super looking, rugged and accurate auto clock which is a snap to build and install. Clock movement is completely assembled—your job is to add the case and 4 mounting holes. 15 mm digital display is bright green with automatic brightness control photocell—assures you of a highly readable display day or night. Comes in a satin finish anodized aluminum case which can be attached 5 different ways using 2 sided tape. Choice of silver, black or gold case (specify).
DC-3, kit, 12 hour format \$22.95
DC-3 wired and tested \$29.95
110V AC adapter \$5.95

Under dash car clock



12-14 hour clock in a beautiful plastic case features 6 wire RED LEDs, high accuracy (1 min./mo.), easy 3 wire hook-up, switchable with ignition, and super instructions. Options: dimmer automatically adjusts display brightness to light level.
DC-11 clock with mtg bracket
DC-11 dimmer adapter

\$27.95
2.50

PRESCALER

Extend the range of your counter to 600 mHz. Works with any counter includes 2 transistors, 1 diode, 2 super sens. typically 20 mv at 150 mHz. 100 or +100 ratio
PS-1B, 600 mHz prescaler
PS-1BK, 600 mHz prescaler kit

\$59.95
49.95

Ramsey's famous MINI-KITS

FM WIRELESS MIKE KIT

To any FM broadcast radio, uses any type of mike, 10' of 3 to 5 ft. Type-A-2 or 3 to 5 ft. speaker cable make preamp stage
FM-1 kit \$2.95 FM-2 kit \$4.95

VIDEO MODULATOR KIT

Converts any TV to video monitor. Super stable tunable over ch. 4-6 Runs on 5-15V, except sd video requires 12V. Complete kit, VD-1

\$6.95

TONE DECODER

A complete tone decoder on a single PCB board. Features: 400-5000 Hz adjustable range via 20 dip switches. Standard 567 IC useful for tone-decoding tone burst detected, FSK, etc. Can also be used as a 512 channel encoder. Runs on 5 to 12 volts. Complete kit, TD-1

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An interesting kit, small mike picks up sounds and converts them to light. The brighter the light, the louder the sound contained. Includes mike, runs on 110VAC, controls up to 300 watts. Complete kit, WL-1

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OP-AMP SPECIAL

741 mini dip	\$8.95
B1-FET, mini dip, 741 type	15.95
	29.95

12\$00
10\$20

VIDEO TERMINAL

A completely self-contained, stand alone video terminal card. Requires only an ASCII keyboard and TV set to become a complete terminal unit. Two units available, common features are: single 8V supply, X-Y plotter, 16x16 dot matrix display, RS-232C, complete computer and keyboard control of cursor. Parallel error control and display. Accepts and generates serial ASCII plus parallel keyboard input. The 3216 has 32K memory, RS-232C, and a memory dump feature. The 6416 is 64 char. by 16 lines, with scrolling, upper and lower case (optional) and has RS-232 and 20mA loop interfaces on board. Kits include chassis and complete documentation.
TR-3216, terminal card \$149.95
RE-6416, terminal card 199.95
Lower Case option, 6416 only 13.95
Power Supply Kit 14.95
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Assembled, tested units, add 60.00

CALENDAR ALARM CLOCK

The clock that's got it all. 6-8" LEDs, 12/24 hour, snooze, alarm, 4 year calendar, battery backup, and lots more. The super 7001 chip is used. Size 5x4x2 inches
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Simple Class C power amp features 8 power gain 1 Win for Class C, 8 in for 15 out, 4W in for 30 mW out. 100% efficiency, no heat sink required, value, complete with with 100% matched parts, less case and T-R relay.
PA-1, 30 W pwr amp kit \$22.95
TR-1, RF sensed T-R relay kit 6.95

For wired and tested clocks add \$10.00 to kit once

FM MINI MIKE KIT

A super high performance FM wireless mike kit. Transmits a stable signal up to 300 yards with exceptional audio quality because of its built-in 100% efficient mixer. Kit includes case, mike, on-off switch, antenna, battery and super instructions. This is the finest unit available.
FM-3 kit \$12.95
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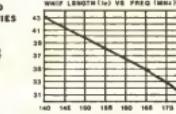
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254177	30	35	40	25C461	1.25	1.35	1.45	25C112A	.80	.85	.95	25C2091	.65	.65	.65	AN313	1.25	1.35	1.45	TA1701P	1.85	2.15	2.45
254495	25	30	35	25C482	1.28	1.35	1.45	25C127	.80	.85	.95	25C2092	1.75	1.95	2.20	AN314	1.75	1.95	2.20	TA1713P	1.55	1.75	1.95
254496	10	15	20	25C483	1.28	1.35	1.45	25C132	.80	.85	.95	25C2093	1.75	1.95	2.20	AN315	1.75	1.95	2.20	TA1724P	1.55	1.75	1.95
254509	30	35	40	25C509	.30	.40	.45	25C168	.25	.35	.40	25D752	.50	.60	.75	AN316	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1735P	2.45	2.80	2.85
254508	25	30	35	25C510	.25	.30	.35	25C170	.25	.30	.35	25D753	.50	.60	.75	AN317	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1746P	1.90	2.10	2.40
254544	20	25	30	25C511	.20	.25	.30	25C173	.20	.25	.30	25D754	.50	.60	.75	AN318	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1757P	1.90	2.10	2.40
254534	30	35	40	25C520	.45	.50	.55	25C177	10.90	12.00	13.80	25D169	1.55	1.75	1.95	AN319	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1768P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254643	30	35	40	25C534A	.45	.50	.55	25C180	.25	.30	.35	25D218	.25	.30	.35	AN320	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1779P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254673	30	35	40	25C534B	.45	.50	.55	25C182	.25	.30	.35	25D219	.25	.30	.35	AN321	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1780P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254682	30	35	40	25C534C	.45	.50	.55	25C183	.25	.30	.35	25D220	.25	.30	.35	AN322	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1781P	1.25	1.50	1.75
254563	45	50	55	25C511	.20	.25	.30	25C188	.25	.30	.35	25D261	.30	.35	.40	AN323	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1782P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254895	40	45	50	25C512	.20	.25	.30	25C190	.25	.30	.35	25D262	2.05	2.25	2.45	AN324	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1783P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254894	40	45	50	25C513	.20	.25	.30	25C191	.25	.30	.35	25D263	.25	.30	.35	AN325	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1784P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254894A	50	85	85	25C507	2.95	3.15	3.35	25C192	.30	.35	.40	25D264	.65	.70	.75	AN326	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1785P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254720	30	35	40	25C523	.20	.25	.30	25C193	.30	.35	.40	25D265	.65	.70	.75	AN327	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1786P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254721	25	30	35	25C523	.20	.25	.30	25C194	.30	.35	.40	25D266	.65	.70	.75	AN328	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1787P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254727	45	50	55	25C524	.20	.25	.30	25C195	.30	.35	.40	25D267	.65	.70	.75	AN329	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1788P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254728	45	50	55	25C525	.20	.25	.30	25C196	.30	.35	.40	25D268	.65	.70	.75	AN330	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1789P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254777	30	40	45	25C578	2.00	2.15	2.30	25C197	.25	.30	.35	25D269	.65	.70	.75	AN331	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1790P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254778	35	45	50	25C579	1.80	1.95	2.10	25C198	.25	.30	.35	25D270	.65	.70	.75	AN332	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1791P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254817	20	27	30	25C589	.76	.85	.95	25C199	.25	.30	.35	25D271	.65	.70	.75	AN333	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1792P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254824	25	30	35	25C590	1.50	1.65	1.80	25C200	.25	.30	.35	25D272	.65	.70	.75	AN334	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1793P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254824A	50	55	60	25C591	.20	.25	.30	25C201	.25	.30	.35	25D273	.65	.70	.75	AN335	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1794P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254805	25	30	35	25C592	.20	.25	.30	25C202	.25	.30	.35	25D274	.65	.70	.75	AN336	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1795P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254805A	50	55	60	25C593	.20	.25	.30	25C203	.25	.30	.35	25D275	.65	.70	.75	AN337	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1796P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254845	10	15	20	25C594	.20	.25	.30	25C204	.25	.30	.35	25D276	.65	.70	.75	AN338	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1797P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254846	20	25	30	25C595	.20	.25	.30	25C205	.25	.30	.35	25D277	.65	.70	.75	AN339	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1798P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254846A	10	15	20	25C596	.20	.25	.30	25C206	.25	.30	.35	25D278	.65	.70	.75	AN340	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1799P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254847	70	80	80	25C597	.40	.45	.50	25C207	.25	.30	.35	25D279	.65	.70	.75	AN341	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1800P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254851	70	75	75	25C598	.20	.25	.30	25C208	.20	.25	.30	25D280	.65	.70	.75	AN342	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1801P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254852	20	25	30	25C599	.20	.25	.30	25C209	.20	.25	.30	25D281	.65	.70	.75	AN343	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1802P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254852A	20	25	30	25C600	.20	.25	.30	25C210	.20	.25	.30	25D282	.65	.70	.75	AN344	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1803P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254853	20	25	30	25C601	.20	.25	.30	25C211	.20	.25	.30	25D283	.65	.70	.75	AN345	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1804P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254854	20	25	30	25C602	.20	.25	.30	25C212	.20	.25	.30	25D284	.65	.70	.75	AN346	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1805P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254855	20	25	30	25C603	.20	.25	.30	25C213	.20	.25	.30	25D285	.65	.70	.75	AN347	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1806P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254856	20	25	30	25C604	.20	.25	.30	25C214	.20	.25	.30	25D286	.65	.70	.75	AN348	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1807P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254857	2.05	2.45	2.45	25C545	.20	.25	.30	25C215	.15	.18	.20	25D287	.65	.70	.75	AN349	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1808P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254858	2.05	2.45	2.45	25C546	.20	.25	.30	25C216	.15	.18	.20	25D288	.65	.70	.75	AN350	1.45	1.75	2.00	TA1809P	4.00	4.50	4.80
254859	2.05	2.45	2.45	25C547	.20	.25	.30	25C217	.15	.18	.20	25D289	.65	.7									

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A011 - 10 4055 18 4056 27 4056C - 100

A012 - 10 4056 18 4056 27 4056C - 100

A013 - 20 4058 - 80 74C02 - 22 74C15 - 10

A014 - 20 4059 - 93 74C02 - 22 74C15 - 10

A015 - 20 4060 - 93 74C02 - 22 74C15 - 10

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2N709 100V .5 A 10.00

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2N713 100V .5 A 10.00

2N714 100V .5 A 10.00

2N715 100V .5 A 10.00

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SN6477 Complex Sound Generator \$3.50
This is a programmable sound effect generator capable of producing a wide variety of sounds from high to low frequency. Using this chip & a small number of inexpensive parts, a variety of projects may be built. Spec shs & application notes \$1.00

TL500 Analog Processor \$8.50
The TL500 contains all the active analog elements for an automatic zeroing and automatic polarity. It is a 13-bit dual-slope A/D converter that has true differential inputs. It requires 3 caps & 2 resistors with no special matching or tolerances. It is designed for use with the TL502. Spec sheet \$.25

TL502 Digital Panel Meter L.D. \$5.50
This is a 4 1/2-digit Digital Panel Meter L.D. that is designed to interface with the TL500 analog processor. It provides base drive for external PNP digit & segment drivers providing direct interface with 7-segment display. Spec sheet \$.25

LD130 A/D Converter \$5.50
Single-reference voltage, auto zero end auto polarity. It is designed for Digital Voltmeters, Panel Meters, Digital Thermometers, Microprocessor Interfaces to Analog Signals, & General Instrumentation. 34-pg. Spec & Application notes \$2.50

MM5865 Programmable Stopwatch \$7.50
7-function Universal Timer and Stopwatch. Start/stop with elapsed time, start/stop accumulative event time, split, sequential total elapsed time, tally, total elapse time, program up and down count. It uses 32.8 KHz crystal or external clock. Spec sheet & 10-page Application notes \$1.50

32.8 KHz Crystal \$4.00
Minimum order \$5.00 US carriage. Check or money order only. Add 5% to cover shipping and handling charges. Calif. residents add 6% sales tax. Santa Clara County residents add 6.5% sales tax.

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103 MINI-WINK NEON FLASHER. Random flash pattern. Interesting displays. 6 neon lamps. AC operated.

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103A (103 w/PCB)	4.60
103B (103 w/PCB,CASE)	6.85



110 ELECTRONIC WHOOPER SIREN. Powerful-wailing sound. Dual oscillator circuit. Use with any alarm circuit. Battery not included.

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110B (110 w/PCB,CASE)	9.60



117 TUNABLE ELECTRONIC ORGAN. Tunable 7-note scale. Play sing-a-long favorites. Battery not included.

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117A (117 w/PCB)	8.90
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120 SIREN/CODE OSCILLATOR. Loud, piercing alarm. Practice Morse code. Battery not included.

120	\$4.20
120A (120 w/PCB)	5.55
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104A (104 w/PCB)	14.20
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126 PROGRAMMABLE DOORBELL. Adjustable rate and pitch for 15 musical notes. Play favorite tunes. 6 IC's. Uses existing transformer and switch.

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126A (126 w/PCB)	23.70
126B (126 w/PCB,CASE)	29.20

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109 AUTO/HOME BURGLAR ALARM. Use with car horn or models 110 or 124 sirens. Latching circuit. Battery not included.
109 \$2.25
109A (109 w/PCB) 3.40
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114 AUDIO AMPLIFIER. High sensitivity, high gain, use as intercom, PA amp, phone pick-up and others, push-pull output. Battery not included.
114 \$6.35
114A (114 w/PCB) 8.90
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119 MOTOR SPEED CONTROL. Adjust motor speed to suit application. SCR controlled, use as light dimmer. AC operated.

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119A (119 w/PCB)	5.50
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123A (123 w/PCB) 11.40
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540 BINARY CLOCK. Handcraft tomorrow's timepiece today. Watch constantly changing patterns of LED's as they display Binary Time. This unique clock project enhances the learning of Digital Logic and the Binary Coding System, as well as offering a beautifully styled conversation piece.
10 TTL INTEGRATED CIRCUITS • VOLTAGE REGULATOR • 43,000 PULSATUNG LIGHT PATTERNS • FAST, SLOW AND HOLD CONTROLS • 115VAC 50 or 60Hz.



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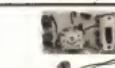
124 WARBLING SIREN. Two-tone oscillating siren. Loud and penetrating, 2 IC's. For automobile or other 12 volt systems.
124 \$5.65
124A (124 w/PCB) 7.10
124B (124 w/PCB,CASE) 10.20



105 FISH CALLER. Clicking sound imitates distressed fish. Adjustable speed. Battery not included.
105 \$2.95
105A (105 w/PCB) 4.10
105B (105 w/PCB,CASE) 5.70



107 COLOR ORGAN CONTROL — 3 CHANNEL. Over 200W per channel. Separate sensitivity control. Hi-mid-lo frequency response. AC operated.
107 \$9.20
107A (107 w/PCB) 11.85
107B (107 w/PCB,CASE) 14.95



118 TV SCRAMBLER. Tunable to all VHF stations. 30 foot range. Battery not included.
118 \$1.95
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- Super Sensitivity with preamps in both HI-Z & 50 Ohm inputs
<10mV to 50MHz, 25 mV @ 150 MHz <50mV to 600MHz
- Auto Decimal Point • Aluminum Case • Socketed IC's
- Three position attenuator: X1, X10, X100 (avoids false counting)

#OPTO-8000.1A	Factory Assembled	\$329.95
#OPTO-8000.1AK	Kit Form	\$279.95
#NI-CAD-80	NI-CAD Battery Pack	\$ 19.95

OPTO-7000 10 Hz to 600 MHz MINIATURE COUNTER

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• Aluminum Case • HI-Z & 50 Ohm inputs	
• 1 Sec. & 1/10 Sec. Gate times • Auto Dec. Pt.	
• Built-in Prescaler and Preamps Standard	
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#OPTO-7000K	Kit Form..... 99.95
#AC-70	AC Power Pack..... 4.95
#NI-CAD-70	NI-CAD Battery Pack 19.95
#TCXO-70	Precision TCXO Time Base <0.1PPM, 17-40°C..... 79.95

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APPLE II SERIAL I/O INTERFACE *

Part no. 2
 Baud rate is continuously adjustable from 0 to 30,000. Plugs into any peripheral connector. Low current drain RS-232 input and output. On board switch selectable 5 to 8 data bits, 1 or 2 stop bits, end parity or no parity either odd or even. Jumper selectable address. SOFTWARE: Input and Output routine from monitor or BASIC to teleprinter or other serial printer. Program for using an Apple II or for a video intelligent terminal. Also can output in correspondence code to interface with some selectrics. Board only — \$15.00; with parts — \$42.00; assembled and tested — \$62.00.



MODEM *

Part no. 109
 • Type 103 • Full or half duplex • Works up to 300 baud • Originates or Answers • No coils, only low cost components • TTL input and output-serial • Connect 8 ohm speaker and crystal mic directly to board • Uses XR FSK demodulator • Requires +5 volts • Board \$7.80, with parts \$27.50



DC POWER SUPPLY *

Part no. 6085
 • Board supplies a regulated +5 volts at 3 amps, +12, -12, and -5 volts at 1 amp. Power required is 8 watts AC at 3 amps., and 24 watts AC C.T. at 1.5 amps. • Board only \$12.50; with parts excluding transformers \$42.50



TAPE INTERFACE *

Part no. 111
 • Play and record Kansas City Standard tapes • Converts a low cost tape recorder to a digital recorder • Works up to 1200 baud • Digital in and out are TTL-serial • Output of board connects to min. of recorder • Earphone of recorder connects to input on board • No coils • Requires +5 volts, low power drain • Board \$7.80, with parts \$27.50



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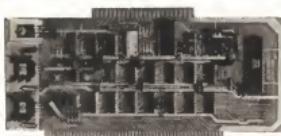
T.V. TYPEWRITER

Part no. 106
 • Stand alone T.V.T.
 • 32 char./line, 16 lines, modifications for 64 char./line included • Parallel ASCII/TTL input • Video output • 1K on board memory • Output for computer terminal • 12 volt power • Auto scroll • Non-destructive cursor • Cursor inputs: up, down, left, right, home, EOL, EOS • Scroll up, down • Requires +5 volts at 1.5 amps, end -12 volts at 30 mA • All 7400, TTL chips • Char. gen. 2513 • Upper case only • Board only \$39.00; with parts \$145.00



TIDMA *

Part no. 112
 • Play Interface Direct Memory Access • Record and play programs without bootstrap loader (no prom) has FSK encoder/decoder for direct connections to low cost recorder at 1200 baud rate, and direct connections for inputs and outputs to a digital recorder at any baud rate • S-100 bus compatible • Board only \$35.00; with parts \$110.00



UART & BAUD RATE GENERATOR *

Part no. 101
 • Converts serial to parallel and parallel to serial • Low cost on board baud rate generator • Baud rates: 110, 150, 300, 600, 1200, and 2400 • Low power drain +5 volts and -12 volts required • TTL compatible • All characters contain a start bit, 5 to 8 data bits, 1 or 2 stop bits, and either odd or even parity. All connections go to a 44 pin gold plated edge connector • Board only \$12.00, with parts \$35.00 with connector add \$3.00



8K STATIC RAM

Part no. 300
 • 8K Altair bus memory • Uses 2102 Static memory chips • Memory protect • Gold contacts • Wait states • On board regulator • S-100 bus compatible • Vector input option • TRI state buffered • Board only \$22.50; with parts \$160.00



RF MODULATOR *

Part no. 107
 • Converts video to AM modulated RF. Channels 2 or 3. So powerful almost no tuning is required. On board regulated power supply makes this extremely stable. Rated very highly in Doctor Dobbs' Journal. Recommended by Apple. • Power required is 12 volts AC C.T., or +5 volts DC • Board \$7.60; with parts \$13.50



RS 232/TTY *

INTERFACE

Part no. 600
 • Converts RS-232 to 20mA current loop to RS-232 • Two separate circuits • Requires +12 and -12 volts • Board only \$4.50, with parts \$7.00



RS 232/TTL *

INTERFACE

Part no. 232
 • Converts TTL to RS-232, and converts RS-232 to TTL • Two separate circuits • Requires -12 and +12 volts • All connections go to a 10 pin gold plated edge connector • Board only \$4.50, with parts \$7.00 with connector add \$2.00



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	IC#	NAME	TYPE
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2	4001	4001	CMOS
3	4002	4002	CMOS
4	4003	4003	CMOS
5	4004	4004	CMOS
6	4005	4005	CMOS
7	4006	4006	CMOS
8	4007	4007	CMOS
9	4008	4008	CMOS
10	4009	4009	CMOS
11	4010	4010	CMOS
12	4011	4011	CMOS
13	4012	4012	CMOS
14	4013	4013	CMOS
15	4014	4014	CMOS
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306	4305	4305	CMOS
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316	4315	4315	CMOS
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- Concentric single trace scope to dual trace.
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- Die-cast aluminum case, ruggedized, shock mounted pattern generator, 8F to 14G.
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30V to 11 ranges, Blue fine
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Trigger sweep, TTL or auto.

Calibrated time base 30 nsec.

Present TVY and TVM with
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FET amplifier for rugged
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74M53	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
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74M59	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M60	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M61	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
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74M64	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M65	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
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74M84	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M85	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M86	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M87	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M88	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
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74M96	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M97	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
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74M99	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
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74M103	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
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74M121	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M122	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M123	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M124	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M125	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M126	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M127	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
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74M131	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M132	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M133	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M134	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
74M135	17	LML019	1-19	CD451B	1.00	B124	2.60
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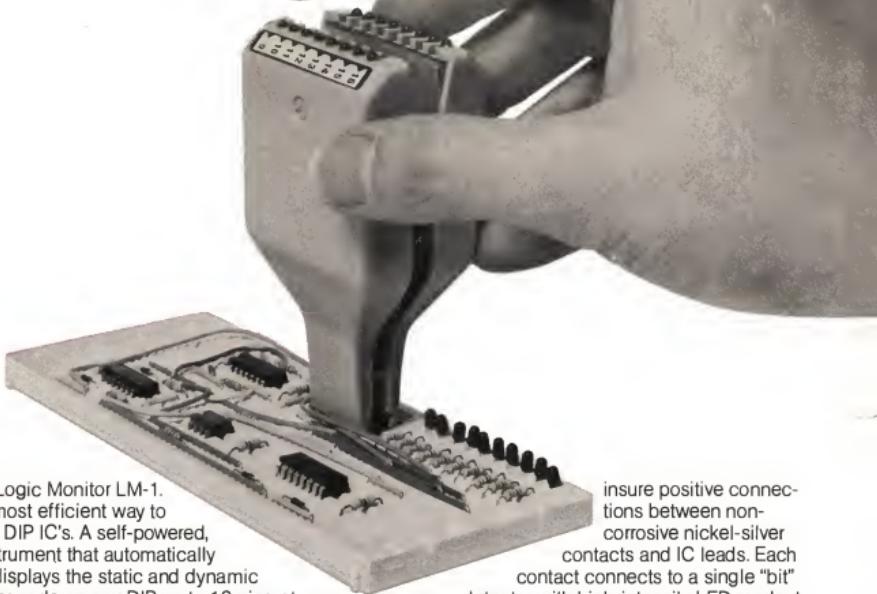
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